Ex-Comelec chief to testify vs Tancangco

STORY ON PAGE A2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

MONDAY, MAY 21, 2001 ★ 78 PAGES 7 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 162 ₱15

WHAT'S INSIDE
- LA Lakers dump Spurs SPORTS / A22
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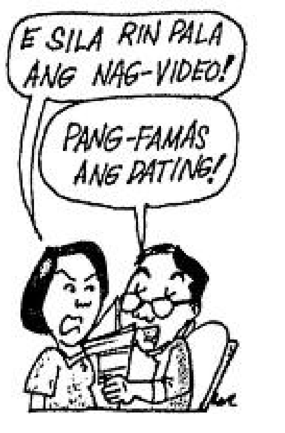
Guess who provoked Edsa Tres?

NEARLY everything sinister that happened in the country recently has been blamed on the now defunct Presidential Anti-Organized

GUESS/ A6


E SILA RIN PALA ANG NAG-VIDEO!
PANG-FAMAS ANG DATING!

NAMFREL As of 4:22 p.m., May 20	No. of precincts: 132,498 (65.92%)		COMELEC 3:15 p.m., 5/19 Rank	
1	DE CASTRO	10,557,244	1	904,458
2	FLAVIER	7,742,908	3	602,158
3	OSMEÑA	7,622,910	11	555,231
4	MAGSAYSAY	7,399,585	2	599,360
5	ARROYO	7,396,128	5	616,067
6	DRILON	7,376,490	6	595,597
7	VILLAR	7,252,191	4	600,766
8	PANGILINAN	7,166,216	9	573,329
9	ANGARA	7,037,047	8	575,271
10	LACSON	6,820,287	12	546,286
11	EJERCITO	6,776,781	7	580,890
12	HONASAN	6,708,574	10	561,887
13	RECTO	6,696,906	13	528,447
14	SANTIAGO	6,264,758	15	487,201
15	ENRILE	6,235,605	14	496,123
16	PUNO	5,741,432	16	433,802
17	TAÑADA	5,361,333	17	398,980
18	MERCADO	4,889,581	18	365,516
19	PAGDANGANAN	4,629,271	19	347,229
20	HERRERA	4,537,923	21	308,086
21	MONSOD	4,442,361	20	324,230
22	RASUL	3,362,571	24	214,079
23	MADRIGAL	3,291,120	23	236,440
24	CHATO	3,184,372	22	287,653
25	YASAY	3,091,668	25	208,558
26	CANOY	2,389,558	27	130,912
27	TAMANO	2,250,368	26	135,607
28	ADAZA	525,729	28	45,537
29	MORATO	445,961	30	36,668
30	NAVARRO	422,977	29	41,595

GMA to build house for arrested leader

President calls for healing after divisive elections

BY MARTIN P. MARFIL

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called for healing following the hotly contested May 14 elections as she promised to build a special annex at a heavily guarded military hospital in Quezon City for her jailed predecessor, Joseph Estrada.

In a radio interview, Ms Macapagal noted that intense rivalry between her People Power Coalition and Estrada's Puwersa ng Masa had caused "division" among Filipinos that needed to be dealt with immediately.

"It's time that we have unity in our country. We have to heal the wounds of the past year," she told radio station dzRH. "The healing should start from the top."

Her statement came a day after she visited Estrada at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he and his son, San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada, are undergoing medical tests while in police custody awaiting trial on charges of plunder.

The surprise visit was aimed at easing political tension resulting from the congressional and local elections, considered a referendum on Ms Macapagal four months after she took over the presidency from Estrada at the height of Edsa People Power II.

Estrada and his son were airlifted to the hospital last week from their detention cell at a police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

In the radio interview, Ms Macapagal said she told Estrada that she would not oppose his request that he be placed under house arrest.

But she added that she made it clear to Estrada that the decision should come from the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada, 64, was depressed upon receiving reports that he might be moved back to the police camp, Ms Macapagal said.

She said Estrada's doctors would have to make a formal re-

GMA/ A20

House arrest poses dilemma for Macapagal

BY AMANDO DORONILA

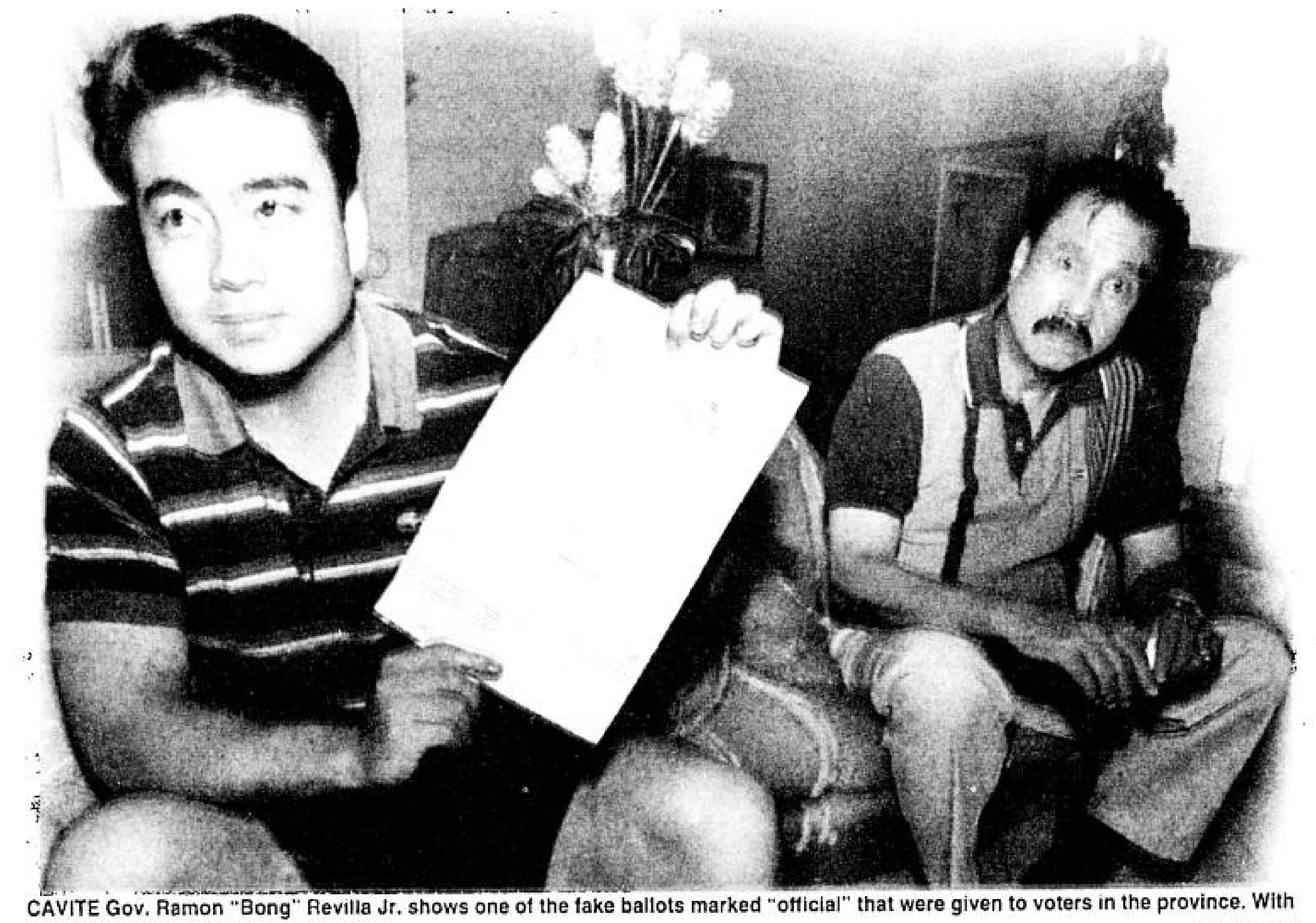
PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo visited her ousted predecessor, Joseph Estrada, during the weekend at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center for the second time in two weeks as a gesture of compassion.

ANALYSIS

The visit, which came amid reports that Estrada had suffered from "bouts of depression," was partly a public relations move aimed at healing the divisions of the nation since the May 1 attack on Malacañang.

Estrada, however, repeated his request that he be put under house arrest while undergoing trial on charges of plunder rather than be detained at Fort Sto. Domingo in Santa Rosa, Laguna.

HOUSE/ A20



CAVITE Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr. shows one of the fake ballots marked "official" that were given to voters in the province. With him is his father, Sen. Ramon Revilla.
ERIK ARAZAS

Bong, Ayong swap vote-buy raps

Millions flowed during Cavite polls, rivals claim

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

SPECIAL REPORT

DISBELIEF was etched on the faces of reelectionist Gov. Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., his wife Lani Mercado and his father Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. when the INQUIRER came for an interview on Friday at the Revillas' compound in Bacoor, Cavite.

As of last count, the soft-spoken Rep. Ireneo "Ayong" Maliksi, an Imus mayor for 10 years, was beating the actor-turned-governor in a race that saw the rival camps allegedly spending more than P800 million, much of it reportedly coming from jailed former President Joseph Estrada.

Mercado, a popular actress, was also losing in the mayoral race in Bacoor to incumbent Jessie Castillo.

In contrast, the 63-year-old Maliksi found some time for an interview while relaxing at the New World Hotel in Makati City.

For the Revillas, their defeat was brought about by Estrada and his son Jinggoy in retaliation for abandoning Estrada in the days leading to his downfall.

The senior Revilla, a once close movie pal of Estrada, was not happy about reports that Estrada was elated by the defeat of Bong.

"He should really be happy because we believe he spent more than half a billion pesos in the elections here," the senior Revilla said in Filipino.

Maliksi denied the allegation. "Half a billion (pesos)? We never got a single centavo from the Estradas during our campaign," he said.

Maliksi volunteered the information that he was accused of receiving P30 million from Jinggoy, Bong's erstwhile

BONG/ A20

Iloilo count errors rising–Namfrel

BY MA. DIOSA LABISTE
PDI Visayas Bureau
AGNES E. DONATO
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

THE WIDESPREAD tabulation errors discovered by the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) in northern Iloilo town and in many precincts in Iloilo City have many senatorial candidates of the administration losing votes.

From its headquarters at the Jaro Metropolitan Cathedral in Iloilo City, piles of election returns with "mistakes and inconsistencies" in tabulations are growing as the poll watchdog is wrapping up its unofficial count in Iloilo.

Arturo Salazar, Namfrel coordinator for Iloilo province, said votes appeared to have been shaved off from the senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition (PPC) while votes were added to those running under the opposition Puwersa ng Masa (PnM).

A week into the quick count, the

ILOILO/ A21

DECLARING their mission accomplished, volunteers of the National Movement for Free Elections attend a thanksgiving Mass on Sunday at its tabulation center at the La Salle gym in Greenhills, San Juan. JESS YUSON

POLL TURNOUT

Mindanao vote: Not about war or peace

BY JOWEL F. CANUDAY
AND ALLAN A. NAWAL
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The Mindanao vote is not about defining religious lines; neither is it solely about voting for war or peace.

With these remarks, concerned leaders from Mindanao appealed to the INQUIRER to be more sensitive in presenting analysis on the outcome of elections on the island.

Baicon Macaraya, chair of the Marawi City-based Ranao Center for Peace and Development, warned that analyzing the vote based on Muslim-Christian dynamics would only fan the biases and animosity long held by both Moros and settlers against each other.

"It is bad enough that this animosity reigns in the hearts of our people. It's bad enough that the all-out war policy of the previous administration fanned that animosity. Definitely, it's worse if we highlighted Christian-Muslim divisions in our assessment of the Mindanao vote," she said.

She said the media should be careful and refrain from touching on subjects and views that could only ignite the feelings of animosity among the people on the island.

Peace advocate Irene Santiago, a member of the government panel in the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said it was too simplistic to say that the votes in Mindanao have been divided based on Muslim and Christian faiths.

Some of the votes may be interpreted as an indication that a number of the voters supported Puwersa ng Masa (PnM) candidates as a

MINDANAO/ A6

MUKHANG MADIDIIN NG HUSTO ANG COMMISSIONER NA ITO!

Demetriou versus Tancangco

DEMETRIOU

TANCANGCO

BY AGNES E. DONATO
AND GERALD G. LACUARTA

FORMER Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair Harriet Demetriou is willing to testify against a current commissioner who is in charge of the modernization projects of the poll body.

Demetriou told Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. in a May 19 letter: "For the sake of truth and clarity, may I be permitted to testify on the status of the two modernization projects which the Comelec pursued during my two-year incumbency as chairman of the constitutional body."

Demetriou was referring to the Voters Identification and Registration System (VRIS) and the Automated Counting and Consolidation of Results System (ACCORS). Both projects were shelved before the last elections amid allegations of irregularities.

Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco, an appointee of former President Joseph Estrada, is chair of the modernization committee overseeing the projects.

In her letter to Pimentel, Demetriou recalled that she had furnished the office of the Senate president documents pertaining to the VRIS project supposedly won by Photokina Marketing Corp. but which she described as "illegal and grossly disadvantageous to the government."

Photokina submitted the lowest bid of P6.5 billion, but the Comelec was told by the Department of Budget and Management that it could not enter into five-year contracts.

The other modernization project, ACCORS, was also shelved after the Comelec declared a failure of bidding due to the shortage of funds.

Demetriou said she wanted to testify in order to clear the present Comelec administration of any participation in the projects.

"My desire to testify is to give justice to the new chairman, Alfredo Benipayo, and two commissioners, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason," Demetriou said, "who had no participation in the two projects."

Tancangco, however, complained that she was not consulted on a resolution passed by the Comelec en banc on March 30 holding in abeyance implementation of the modernization program.

"As chair of the modernization committee, at the very least I should have been heard on the matter," she said.

Tancangco said she welcomes a congressional inquiry and even an impeachment complaint. "I welcome any investigation because we need to ferret out the truth in this," she said. "I have all the documents to support myself."

"I don't run away from a good fight," she added.

Tancangco said modernization of the polls must start by cleansing the voters' list of fictitious and multiple registrants and flying voters.

"Modernization is not limited to automating the counting process," she said.

Tancangco said the 1998 computerized voters' list which was used in the recent elections was "dirty" and would have been cleansed by the Precinct Mapping and CLV Verification Project which was shelved last March.

She had blamed Benipayo, Borra and Tuason with blocking the project, saying her work of two years was laid to waste.

Benipayo, answering a question on the Comelec's preparedness for the 2004 elections, said there will be "plenty of time" to modernize and automate the electoral process and cleanse the voters' list.

"There will be plenty of time for this. We'll study the various methods and systems and hopefully we will get the funding so the system can be in place before 2004," he said.

For his part, Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz yesterday denounced the Comelec for the slow pace of the ballot counting and the other problems encountered during the May 14 polls.

"If we were to assess this election, I would say it was not a very good experience. It was too slow, too prone to mistakes and too vulnerable to cheating," Luz said.

He added that all these problems could be reflective of the "dismal failure" of the Comelec to implement any of its modernization projects.

Luz pointed out that none of the Comelec's three projects – VRIS, ACCORS and the national precinct mapping - were completed in time for the May 14 elections.

"There is an urgent need to modernize the electoral system. We will be having as many as 40 million registered voters in 2004 and it would be next to impossible to do the elections manually by then," he said.

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De Villa coming back

By M. Marfil

OUTGOING Executive Secretary Renato de Villa wants to go back and serve government after undergoing a triple heart bypass.

This was revealed yesterday by President Macapagal-Arroyo who said that she learned of De Villa's plan when she visited him on Saturday.

"He has improved. He told me that by July 24th, three months after his surgery, he would be able to play nine holes of golf," said Ms Macapagal, speaking in Taglish over her husband's radio program.

"He will be back in government, he's raring to go back and work for the government," she said.

Earlier, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told newsmen that a government post awaits De Villa if he wants to go back and work for the Macapagal administration.

However, Tiglao did not say what post would be given to De Villa who was formerly AFP chief of staff and defense secretary.

De Villa underwent a triple heart bypass operation on April 24 and his post was taken over by Renato Corona in acting capacity.

Ms Macapagal has appointed Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo as the new executive secretary.

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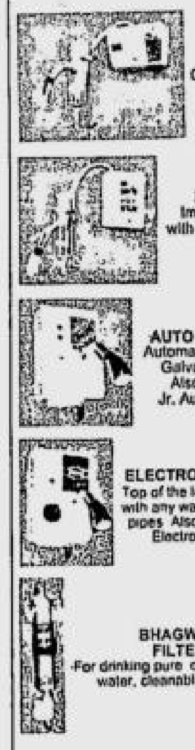

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Stop killings, gov't asks NDF

Communist rebels behind two high-profile murders in Southern Luzon

By Carlito Pablo

SHORT of asking for a ceasefire, the government panel negotiating peace with the communist National Democratic Front has called for a moratorium on the violence being perpetrated by the guerrillas, particularly on civilians.

"These acts of violence are not providing a good atmosphere for the peace talks," government panel chair Silvestro Bello III said.

Bello is scheduled to get in touch with NDF panel chair Luis Jalandoni this afternoon to relay the government's view on the recent spate of violent incidents owned up to by the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines.

"We're going to ask them to stop these," Bello said.

The NPA has claimed responsibility for at least two recent high-profile murders—that of Batangas gubernatorial candidate Cesar Platon and Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan Jr.

The NPA's Melito Glor Command, which operates in Southern Tagalog, said the two were "punished" for their "crimes against the people."

Peace talks are scheduled to resume on June 10 following their formal reopening in Oslo, Norway, last April 27.

Bello said the government move to bring up the issue of the hostile acts with the NDF will be done informally, meaning verbally.

"There is no ceasefire in place so this will have to be made informally," Bello said.

According to Armed Forces of the Philippines figures, the NPA was responsible for 23 of the 98 election-related deaths since the election period began on Jan. 2.

The rebels also wounded 11 of the 138 persons injured, and were involved in 27 of the 152 election-related violent incidents.

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Why soldiers, cops voted for Puwersa bets

By Carlito Pablo

THE MILITARY and police remain loyal to the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo despite indications that they favored senatorial candidates from the Puwersa ng Masa over those of the People Power Coalition in the May 14 elections.

The assurance was made by Armed Forces of the Philippines chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva as figures released by the Commission on Elections on the initial results of the absentee voting for the AFP and Philippine National Police indicating a strong showing by the opposition senatorial candidates.

"Those are different things," said Villanueva, referring to the absentee vote and the speculations that the Macapagal administration has lost the confidence of the men in uniform.

Villanueva added: "This does not mean that our soldiers will be supporting them (opposition) to overthrow the government."

Of about 500 absentee votes counted, more than half were cast for Senators Gregorio Honasan and Juan Ponce Enrile, former PNP chief Panfilo Lacson, and Luisa Estrada, wife of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Villanueva noted that the absentee votes cast were just a small fraction of the 113,000-strong AFP and the PNP, which has a strength of more than 100,000.

Explaining the vote for Honasan, Enrile and Lacson, Villanueva said: "They (military and police) voted for them because they used to belong to the same profession and nothing more."

Honasan was a former Army colonel while Lacson was the top cop during the Estrada administration.

Enrile was the longest-serving defense minister during the Marcos administration.

In a separate interview with defense reporters, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta echoed Villanueva's view on the absentee vote.

"It's like a doctor voting for a candidate who has a background in medicine," Mabanta said.

Mabanta said a segment of the military may have voted for the opposition but this does not mean that they will engage in acts to destabilize the government.

The AFP has proven itself to be a significant power player as shown by the 1986 Edsa Revolt and during Edsa 2 when it withdrew its support from Estrada.

Sources had earlier said that the Edsa 3 protests organized by the Estrada camp failed to seize political power partly because the military refused to turn against the Macapagal administration.

Filipinos ready, RP envoy tells American studes

BOONE, North Carolina—Ambassador Alfonso Yuchengco, special envoy to China, Japan and Korea, told the graduating class of Appalachian State University here Filipinos are confident they will be able to meet the challenges facing them today.

Yuchengco told his audience of 6,000 that challenges in the field of economics and politics will be met "decisively to complete our democratic transition."

He said that at the very hour he was speaking, "our people are going through a nationwide election to determine the composition of half of our Senate and the full complement of our House, and . . . thousands of local officials from provincial governors to town councilors."

The ambassador assured his audience that "we as a people are learning to work together, to set aside narrow factional interests to make sure that the larger national interest is served."

In the field of economics, Yuchengco said his people realize the need to live with the "new economy" based on widespread access to information and intensive application of knowledge to business.

While admitting that the slowdown in the US and global economies may have a "dampening effect" on Philippine efforts at recovery, he said Filipinos are "perennial optimists" and have a higher confidence that things will turn out better over the long haul.

For one thing, Yuchengco said, the Philippines lies in a strategic location at the center of the Asia-Pacific region.

"Already, new special economic zones that have been established all over the country are becoming key venues for logistics companies operating in the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

In politics, the diplomat said his country "must adjust to the pressures of mass democratization."

This means that "our government and all its institutions must become much more efficient if they are to lead our people toward modernization. We must make our imperfect democracy work for everyday people," he said.

RP bans HK chickens

HONG KONG—Health workers packed live chickens, quail and pigeons into trash cans and gassed them Saturday, part of a plan to eradicate Hong Kong's avian flu outbreak by slaughtering 1.2 million birds at markets and farms.

The outbreak prompted the Philippines to ban imports of chickens and other birds from Hong Kong and China on Saturday. Japan, which has not imported any poultry from Hong Kong since last year, issued a formal ban Friday.

Officials said the slaughter was a necessary precaution, even though the disease has not affected humans. In an outbreak in 1997, six people died and dozens got sick, forcing the government to kill all of the territory's 1.4 million chickens.

"Our urgent task now is to destroy all chickens and clean the markets," Secretary for Environment and Food Lily Yam said after inspecting a market. "But for the next step, we'll review all our prevention and monitoring measures." *AP*

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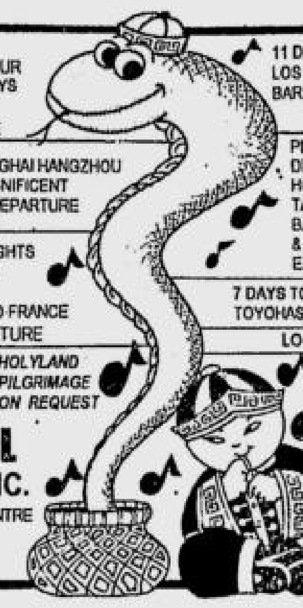
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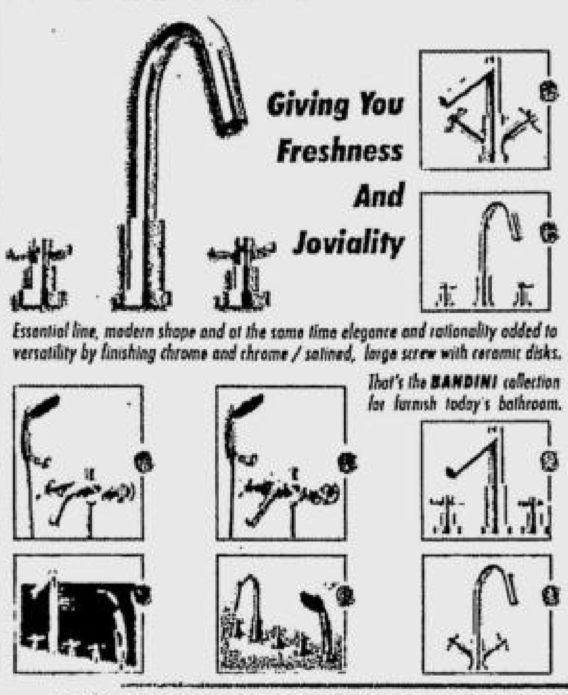
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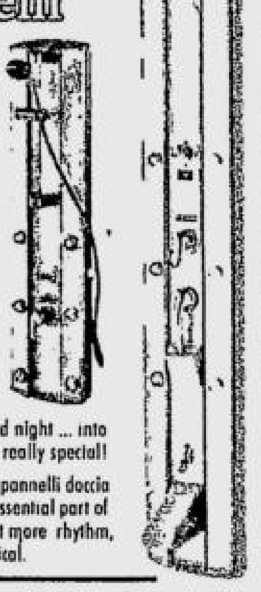
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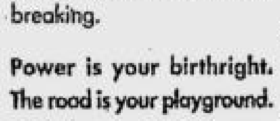
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Mindanao vote: It's not about war or peace

(From page A1)

show of approval for the all-out war policy unleashed by ousted President Joseph Estrada against the MILF last year, she said.

'Not the only way'

But Santiago clarified that pro-war and anti-war assessment on the votes was not the only way of interpreting the votes in Mindanao.

Santiago said she also believed that a number of those who voted for the PnM candidates did not agree with Estrada's "all-out war" policy.

"Some people in Mindanao still have a love affair with Estrada and they think he was unjustly punished so they voted for his candidates," Santiago said.

Santiago said it could not be denied that the deposed leader was able to connect with the largely impoverished populace of Mindanao, especially since he was a very good communicator.

But Santiago said the election results should send a "very important" message to the Macapagal administration, "that addressing the urgent needs and desperate situation of the poor should be on top of its agenda in Mindanao."

Santiago also warned politicians to be very careful not to fall into using prejudices and hatred among the people on the island to advance their political agenda.

"We are a divided country and a divided Mindanao. It will take a long time to heal the wounds of divisions. So we should not exacerbate this division," Santiago said.

Broken promises

Felix Irag, secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) in Southern Mindanao, said it was wrong to report and to interpret the voting trend on the island along religious lines.

This will have adverse implications in the efforts of bridging relationships among the people, he said.

Irag said the PnM candidates' strong showing also indicated that a number of people believed in Estrada's promise of transforming the island into the country's food basket as part of his development agenda.

"Mindanao has long been called as the Land of Broken Promises. Estrada sweet-talked the people and many believed him, so when he was taken away to jail, they thought that they lost their only hope to be uplifted from poverty," Irag said.

But Irag said residents in Moro-dominated areas saw that Estrada's promises were all false after "tasting the bitter and painful realities of war."

Local support

Francisco Jose, local government assistant director in Southern Mindanao, said one of the main factors in Pwersa's strong showing in the region was that more local politicians carried its senatorial candidates in their campaign sorties.

He said local candidates, whose parties allied with the PnM candidates, also won in several provinces and towns in Southern Mindanao.

But Jose said the focus made by the media on the fate of the PnM candidates who reportedly provoked Estrada's supporters at the Edsa shrine to attack Malacañang could have also influenced the outcome of the votes.

He noted that media reports a week before the May 14 polls had given greater exposure to controversial figures of the PnM slate than candidates of the PPC.

Anti-war feelings

In Digos City, political analysts said people in war-affected areas in Central Mindanao and Maguindanao did not vote along ethnicity or religious affiliations but based on strong anti-war sentiment.

"There are those who voted against the PnM not because they are necessarily pro-MILF but because they believed that had not Estrada ordered the offensive, there could have been no massive displacements. For them, they can peacefully coexist with the MILF and the military," Merza Linahon, a political analyst, said.

Linahon said that in the case of other voters, PPC candidates were basically trashed because of fear that an administration victory would revive the strength of the MILF.

"For these voters, unless the MILF is totally controlled, peace would never be attained and we are not only talking here of Christian voters," she said.

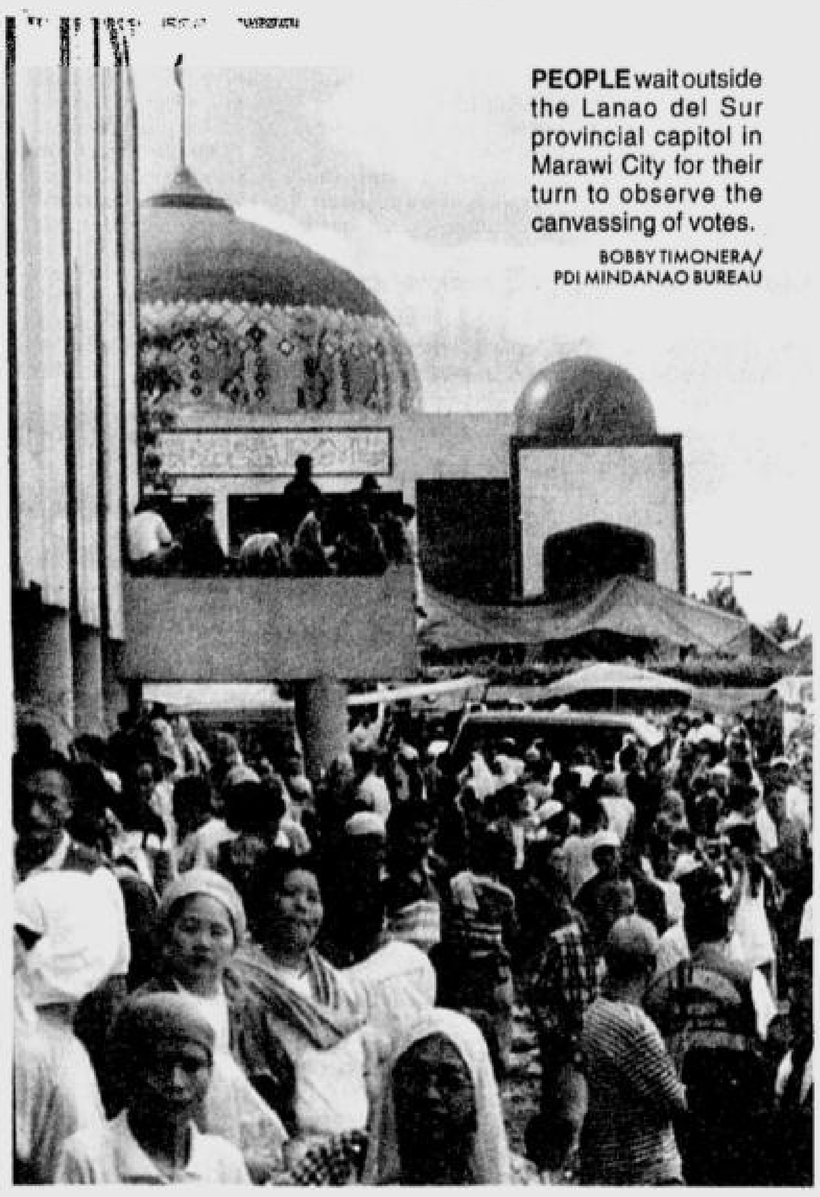
For example, she said, in Muslim-dominated Parang town in Maguindanao, the PnM was leading in unofficial canvassing of Namfrel and other groups.

Amir Baraguir, a former editor of the Maguindanao-based Mindanao Cross, agreed with Linahon.

"That is a very valid way of looking at how the elections went in war-affected areas," Baraguir said.

He said that for the voters, it did not matter whether the PnM was identified with Estrada or that the PPC had the full backing of the administration.

"Although coming from different perspectives and resulting into different voting patterns, they indicated essentially the same sentiment," Baraguir said.



PEOPLE wait outside the Lanao del Sur provincial capitol in Marawi City for their turn to observe the canvassing of votes.

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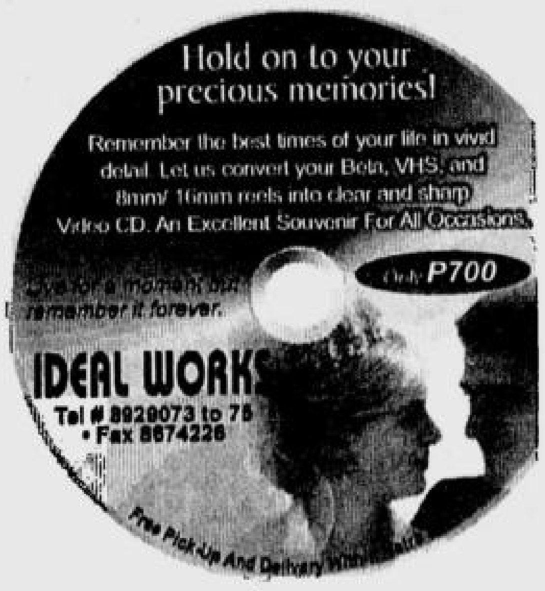

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Guess who provoked Edsa Tres?

(From page A1)

Crime Task Force or PAOCTF.

Now, the same elite police force once headed by former Philippine National Police Director General Panfilo Lacson is being accused of provoking the public outrage that led to the so-called Edsa Tres and the May Day Mayhem.

This seems to be the logic of President Macapagal-Arroyo's disclosure to The Financial Times of London.

The President yesterday told The Financial Times that "an enterprising PAOCTF official" was behind the secret filming and distribution of film clips showing the police taking mug shots and fingerprints of ousted leader Joseph Estrada shortly after his arrest.

"The mug shots did not come from the authorities," Ms Macapagal said in an interview with correspondent Hugh Williamson of the British newspaper.

A Palace press statement quoted Ms Macapagal as saying the PAOCTF official used a hidden camera in recording the procedures Estrada was made to undergo when the Philippine National Police formally took him into its custody after the Sandiganbayan ordered his arrest.

The PAOCTF official, according to the President, even sold the film clip to the local and international media.

The President told the British daily that it was unfortunate that the shots of the former President were shown in public television, saying the government would never have allowed it.

Ms Macapagal pointed out that the government, in fact, discouraged the taking of photographs or filming of the former President in a humiliating manner.

Observers said the controversial film clip outraged Estrada's supporters and prompted them to mass at the Edsa Shrine to protest his shabby treatment.

"The mug shots . . . were smuggled out by an enterprising PAOCTF official and sold to the local media and international media," the President told The Financial Times.

To show her sympathy for her ousted predecessor, Ms Macapagal said she visited Estrada twice in his detention cell.

Two days after the May Day Mayhem, for instance, she flew by helicopter to Fort Sto. Domingo in Santa Rosa, Laguna, to personally look into Estrada's condition.

She also visited him on Saturday at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City.

"There are not really many instances in the whole world in history where you have a former president in jail," she said.

"Personally, I would have wished that all of these should have been done after the elections. But, you know, you cannot influence a constitutional and independent body (like the Office of the Ombudsman or the Sandiganbayan)."

Judge son's killers arrested

BY D.VERIDIANO

POLICE arrested over the weekend five suspected members of a kidnap-for-ransom gang believed responsible for the abduction and slay of a son of a former Quezon City judge.

The five suspects told police where they had buried the body of Mark Harry Bacalla, 23, son of a former QC Regional Trial Court judge and a resident of Litex Road, Quezon City.

Agents of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) and the Intelligence Group (IG) motored to Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija last night to exhume Bacalla's body.

Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG director, identified two of the arrested suspects as Aldus Alcantara and Zaldy Cariño.

Cariño was nabbed on Araneta Avenue in Quezon City while Alcantara was collared in Sta. Mesa, Manila. The three others whose names were not available were arrested in Cavite. Police are on the trail of three more suspects.

Bacalla, a taxi operator, was snatched by armed men in Quezon City on May 2 and was reportedly killed by his abductors a few hours later.

Gualberto said that even after killing Bacalla, the suspects demanded and got P500,000 in ransom from the victim's family.

Not content, the gang asked the Bacallas to pay another P500,000 before Mark would be released.

It was during the second payoff that intelligence agents, who were secretly watching, caught Cariño in the act of receiving the ransom money.

During interrogation, Cariño reportedly admitted his role in the crime and gave the names of his accomplices.

The CIDG is readying charges against the kidnap gang members.

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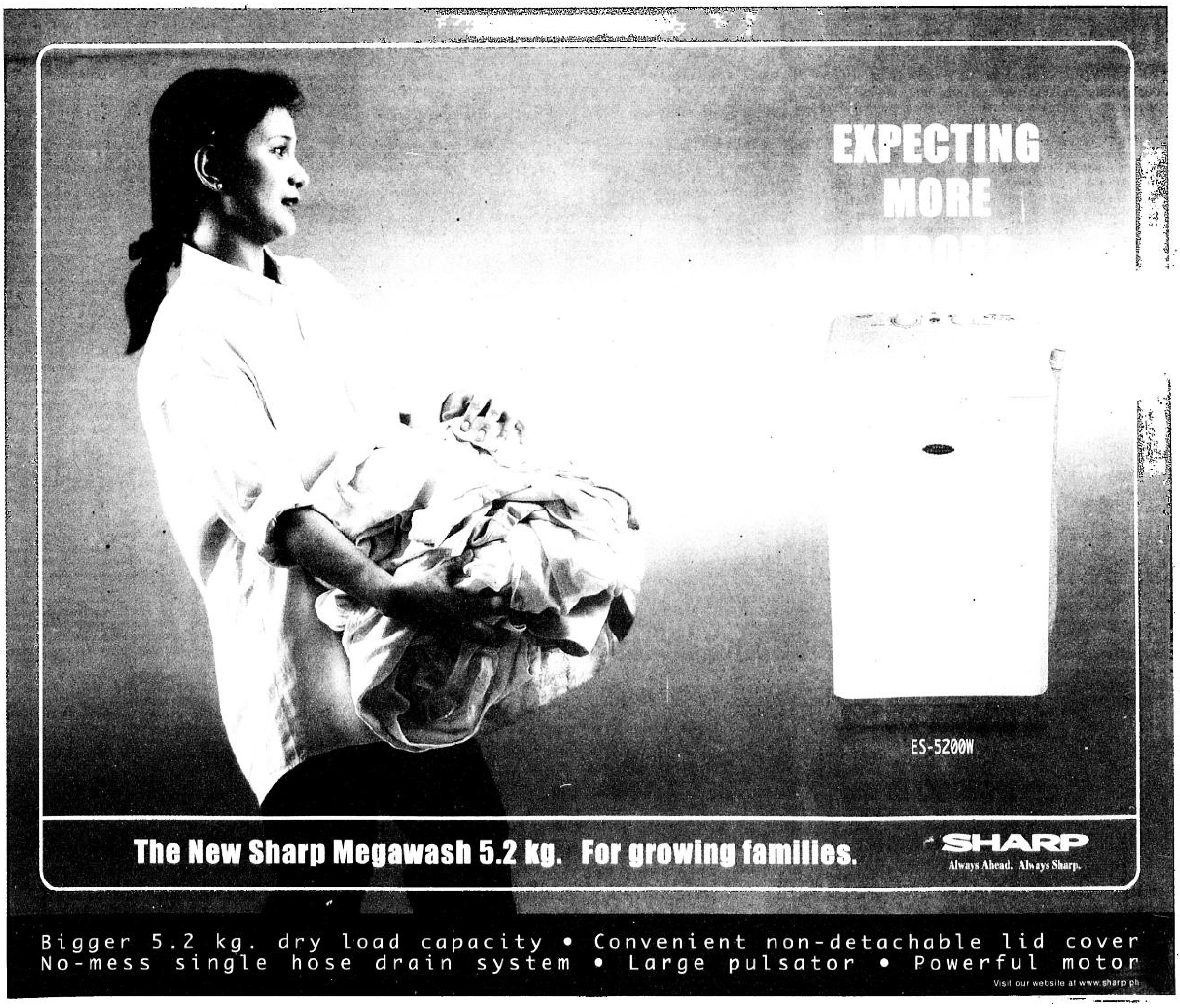
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Days of May

EDITORIAL

THE MONTH of May has sprung not a few surprises, most of them unpleasant. One of the most surprising and unpleasant is that it is nearly over. We barely realized that the month was upon us though it came in with the country's teeming poor at Mendiola banging at the Palace gates.

Pundits and partisans, often they are one and the same in this country, warned about the obvious message at Mendiola: That we had better listen to the sounds of the rampaging multitudes. They were the hungers and yearnings of the poor. Listen to them rage at the other side of the great divide—the rich who have endlessly ruled business and politics in our land.

Since Mendiola, we have been asking each other: Where did we fail the poor? Since the start of the month, we have been searching for answers. Right away, the Catholic Church had enjoined its faithful to say prayers for the poor to ask God to forgive them for they knew not what they did to the hallowed grounds of the Edsa Shrine. They knew not what they were doing as they rattled the formidable wrought-iron gates of Malacañang.

While the Church repeatedly said they had no quarrel with the poor but only forgiveness in the heart, something was very wrong with the prayer. It was saying the poor were ignorant, unruly, needing forgiveness as they were guilty and had to be prayed for. The prayer put the poor in their proper place—outside, as usual, longing to be part of every good thing, few as it is, that ever happens in the country.

Yes, the poor were roused to a frenzy to march on the Palace. Yes, their hungers were used by would-be power-grabbers, or so it had been repeatedly alleged. But in their state of perpetual exclusion, the poor were easy prey for rabble-rousers who appeared to heed their clamor for a better life. That's why they were only too willing to be used. Poverty was the drug in Mendiola.

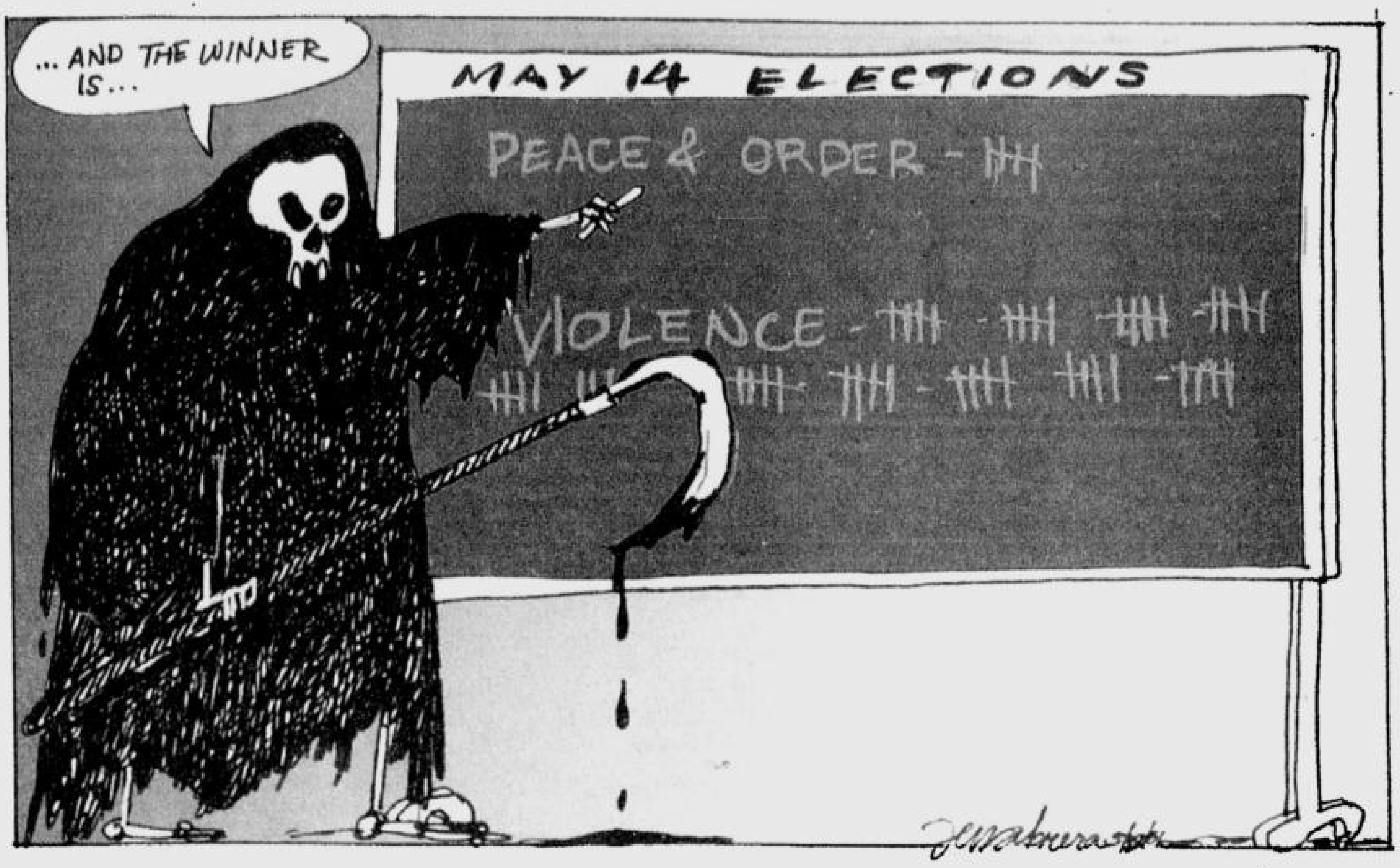
Half the month was devoted by the Church in all its parishes in Metro Manila to acts and prayers of reparation for the "profanation" of the Edsa Shrine. Because while the masses squatted for five days at the Shrine, they sang "obscene songs"("Gloria Labandera"), used foul language, messed up the place and destroyed property, among other transgressions. All of which required expiation. All of which were true. But then, the Church should have known better that the poor don't know any better. Its prayer for forgiveness made that quite clear. The conduct of the Edsa squatters was predictable. The poor are different from you and the rest of us. Because all their lives, the opportunities for a decent life that we take for granted have not been available to them. They don't need prayers from any church. By themselves, they pray a lot. They need understanding and attention. They need food on the table today. They can't wait for medium- and long-term poverty alleviation programs to work. They need clothing and shelter today. They don't need overweight bishops to remind them they are different, strange, alienated.

Toward the end of the reparation period, the Church asked for forgiveness from the poor. That's more like it. But on the last day, funny that Jaime Cardinal Sin called on the poor to make amends. The vast majority of Filipinos are impoverished. Their daily lives are a series of atonements for our sins of neglect and indifference.

So, what is the answer? President Macapagal had put on her denim jeans and revisited Smokey Mountain where she had been rudely turned away by residents the first time. She's going "slumming" and distributing land titles where before she could not visit military and police camps often enough. She has also named a special emissary to the urban poor communities (a.k.a. Estrada fans), the movie actor turned Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid. Makes sense. It would take another actor to gain the support of the pro-Estrada masses. But it smacks of show-biz glitz, of the very thing that gets the unworthy elected to high office. The President's "new politics" is going the way of her disgraced predecessor.

What this is saying to us is that Ms Macapagal has yet to forge a genuine alliance with a massive sector of the poor the way she had with her natural constituencies, the Church, the military and civil society. Consider the election results. They continue to reverberate with the tumult in Mendiola. Loud and clear, the voices still speak to us of discontent, of dreams and despair.

May is coming to a close. And with it, summer is gone. We move to another season without getting any closer to answer the questions raised in Mendiola.



The Roman and Tolentino disqualification cases

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST May 14 and May 18, I wrote about two local candidates who should have been disqualified, for serving three consecutive terms in the same position, but who are now winning. In fact, one of them, Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman, has already been proclaimed in spite of vigorous opposition from the complainants who filed disqualification cases against him. The other, Tagaytay City Mayor Francis Tolentino, is leading in the counting against his rival, No. 1 board member (not councilor, as previously reported) Miriam Mendoza.

The controversies arose because both of them served incomplete terms during their first terms. Roman was elected governor during the 1993 recall elections and served one year of the unexpired term of then governor (now representative) Enrique Garcia. He was reelected for two more terms, in 1995 and 1998. That makes three terms.

In the case of Tolentino, he first ran for mayor in 1992 but it was his opponent who was proclaimed. Tolentino filed an election protest, won and served 11 months of his opponent's unexpired term. He then ran, won and served two more full terms, from 1995 to 1998 and 1998 to 2001.

The Constitution limits local officials to three terms or a maximum of nine years. Did Roman and Tolentino serve three terms or just seven years for Roman, and one month shy of seven years for Tolentino? Did they have two more years to complete the maximum of nine tears? Are they already barred from seeking a fourth term?

The two naturally claim they are not yet disqualified. But the Commission on Elections, Supreme Court and two Constitutional Commission delegates, Commissioners Joaquin Bernas and Hilario Davide Jr., ruled they have already served three consecutive full terms and can no longer run for a fourth. It is the number of terms, not the years served, that are counted for the officials, they said.

In his book, "The 1987 Constitution" (Page 637, 1996) Bernas said: "If one is elected representative (or governor or mayor), to serve the unexpired term of another, that term, **no matter how short**, will be considered one term for purposes of computing the number of successive terms allowed." The Supreme Court agreed with Bernas in the case of Borja vs. Comelec (295 SCRA 157) which case Tolentino cited in his defense.

Bernas' comment is based on the opinion of Davide in answer to a query of Commissioner Suarez during the proceedings of the Con-Com, portions of which are quoted in the said Borja case.

Suarez: "For example, a special election is called for a senator, and the senator newly elected would have to serve the unexpired portion of the term. Would that mean that serving the unexpired portion of the term is already considered one term? So, half a term, which is actually the correct statement, plus one term would disqualify the senator concerned from running? Is that the meaning of this provision on disqualification, Madame President?"

Davide: "Yes, because we speak of 'term,' and if there is a special election, he will serve only for the unexpired portion of that particular term plus one more term for the senator and two more terms for the member of the Lower House."

"There is a difference, however, between the case of a vice mayor and that of a member of the House of the Representatives who succeeds another who dies, resigns, becomes incapacitated or is removed from office. The vice mayor succeeds to the mayorship by operation of the law. One the other hand, the representative is elected to fill the vacancy.

"In a real sense, therefore, such representative serves a term for which he was elected. As the purpose of the constitutional provision is to limit the right to be elected and to serve in Congress, his service of the unexpired term is rightly counted as his first term."

Because of this decision, a disqualification against Roman was filed by one Onofre Ramos but it was dismissed by the Comelec's second division. This dismissal has not yet become final and executory. Another complainant, Roger Galang, joined the disqualification case and brought to the attention of the Comelec en banc that in an earlier case—in one Onofre Ramos vs. Roman (SPA 98-198) as reiterated in Virgilio Bautista and Danilo Magdalera vs. Roman, and affirmed by the Comelec en banc on Sept. 3, 1998—it had already declared Roman as having served three consecutive terms.

"Respondent Roman was not elected governor of Bataan during the 1992 elections which would have been his second consecutive term. His assumption to office as governor of Bataan after he was elected as such during the 1993 recall elections was to serve the unexpired term of then Governor Garcia. His second term was from 1995 to 1998 when he was elected governor of Bataan during the 1995 regular elections. His third consecutive term starts on June 30, 1998 when he takes his oath of office again as the duly elected governor of Bataan during the last May 11, 1998 elections."

Hence Roman is clearly disqualified to run for a fourth consecutive term. The ruling of the Comelec's second division, which dismissed the first disqualification case against Roman, cannot overrule the Comelec en banc. That he has already served three consecutive terms as Bataan governor is the standing ruling in the Roman case.

(To be continued)

* * *

Comments are welcome at asiseeit@pacific.net.ph

Falling stars

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

NORA Aunor bit the dust in her battle against Camarines Sur Gov. Luis Villafuerte. Bong Revilla lost to a virtual unknown, Ireneo Maliksi, as did his wife, Lani Mercado, who ran for mayor of Bacoor. Rudy Fernandez has been reduced to crying foul, presumably having been cheated out of being mayor of Quezon City by Feliciano Belmonte. Edu Manzano was swept off the field by Jejomar Binay. Armida Siguion-Reyna lost badly in Makati, as did Philip Salvador in Mandaluyong, though not half as badly. Tirso Cruz III never saw light in Las Piñas.

So have the stars lost their luster in the electoral firmament?

Well, I wouldn't discount the possibility, notwithstanding that some other movie stars have made it. Vilma Santos will serve a second term as mayor of Lipa, Joey Marquez will serve a third term as mayor of Parañaque, Rey Malonzo is the next mayor of Caloocan, Herbert Bautista is the next vice mayor of Quezon City (he must be laughing his head off, having been dumped by his party to make way for "Daboy"), and Aiko Melendez will be a councilor of Quezon City. But they are more the exception than the rule.

It is possible that the voters have developed "show-biz fatigue." It is possible that the voters have gotten tired of movie stars, after going through an Edsa II and Edsa III, and have told themselves that movie stars are more trouble than they are worth. Though in the case of Salvador, his debacle probably owes as well to his having split with Kris Aquino, or with Kris having split with him. Kris had some pretty harsh words to say about it, which many voters of Mandaluyong probably still remembered. A lesson Kiko Pangilinan and Ralph Recto would do well to heed, if Recto should go on to win as senator—he has been slipping steadily as I write this. They bought their position at a price, which could be steep or not, depending on how you look at it: Henceforth, they may only be absolutely devoted husbands.

The case of Revilla and Aunor on the other hand clearly reflects the voters' rejection of them as *balimbings.* Both materialized in Edsa II from out of nowhere, which raises eyebrows to this day. People continue to ask me if I thought Aunor was sincere when she made her appearance at Edsa II. I keep saying I don't know: I suspect she had a compelling need to put a closure to a nightmarish past by making a public confession of being a battered lover, but she also had the governorship of Camarines Sur, which she had been coveting long before Edsa II—an ambition Erap kept discouraging—firmly in mind. While her appearance at Edsa II enabled her to score brownie points with the Macapagal administration, it also doomed her in the eyes of the voters. Villafuerte on the other hand proved loyal to Erap to the end: he was there at the Luneta late last year when Erap summoned his legions to a prayer rally.

But there is another explanation for this development that is less comforting. Indeed, that may make bringing out the champagne a little too premature. There is one thing all these losing movie stars have in common: they all ran in local elections.

I've always said that since 1992, when Miriam Defensor-Santiago nearly stole the presidency from Fidel Ramos—or probably did—popularity had become more important than party anointment, the media had become more important than guns, goons and gold. But so only in national politics. With the media, particularly television, invading the lives of Filipinos everywhere, guns, goons and gold had become a cost-ineffective way of winning votes on a national scale. That was obvious when Ramon Mitra, who commanded the party in power, who had the awesome resources of the speaker of the House, and who had made all sorts of alliances with local power blocs, lost in 1992, and lost badly to Fidel Ramos who bolted Laban and ran on a ragtag party called Lakas, but had the forces of Edsa behind him, and to Santiago who had no political experience but had the Bulletin behind her.

That was the case as well in 1998, Jose de Venecia, the anointed of Lakas, the speaker of the House, and the consummate *politico,* lost and lost badly. Except that in his case he ran against a phenomenally popular candidate who was Erap.

It is another matter entirely in local elections. You run for mayor, governor, or congressman, you deal with an infinitely smaller geographical space. That space is still controllable by guns, goons and gold. You have money and you belong to the party in power, you stand to win. You have money, you belong to the party in power, and you are popular—because you are a movie star, a basketball player, or a TV announcer—you can bet your house and lot on coming out on top. That's what explains the success of the entertainment personalities who won in local elections in 1995 and 1998. They weren't just popular, they were also running under the banner of the party in power.

Lest we forget, Lakas, Ramos' party, had been actively recruiting "winnable" candidates since Ramos took power, and that took the form of entertainers. Bong Revilla was a beneficiary of that recruitment process. As was Marquez—he too ran under Lakas. That Revilla lost—to a virtual nobody at that—while Marquez won can only reinforce the theory that the first ran into a brick wall called a protest vote.

At the national level, I wouldn't put it past movie stars and other entertainers to continue to do well. Cynical as this may seem, I think Fernandez would have had better chances running for senator than for mayor of Quezon City. Everyone was saying Robert Jaworski was still *hilaw* or green when he ran for senator in 1998, and look where he is now. It was the same thing with Tito Sotto. The only caveat here is that this year's elections were a little different from previous ones in that they came from an Edsa II and "Edsa III," and were greatly polarized along those lines. It didn't matter that you were a movie star or not, it mattered that you were for Erap or not. At least at the national level: That polarization did not affect local elections except for Quezon City, Belmonte and Fernandez being patent representatives of Edsa II and "Edsa III." Belmonte was a star of the impeachment trial while Fernandez was one of two big stars (the other was Fernando Poe Jr.) who flew to Erap's side on the day he was arrested.

If you need further proof that the death of "show-biz politics" has been grossly exaggerated, all you have to do is look at Noli de Castro. But which could also mean that movie stars and basketball players now have fierce competition in TV personalities. But that's another story.

* * *

Comments are welcome at dequiros@vasia.com

GMA thanks soldiers and police who defended her

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PEOPLE Power Coalition has alleged that massive cheating was committed in Northern Samar by the opposition Puwersa ng Masa, led by former Rep. Raul Daza, Joseph Estrada's lawyer in the Senate impeachment trial, and reelectionist Rep. Harlyn Abayon. PPC leader Emil Ong has charged that his reelectionist sister-in-law, Gov. Madeleine Ong, was cheated of victory by Daza, but Abayon asserted that the Ongs simply couldn't accept defeat from the 250,000 electorate. PPC spokesperson Dodi Limcaoco has stressed, however, that an indication of how bad the cheating went in Northern Samar was that senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo got zero in several precincts despite his popularity as lead prosecutor during the impeachment trial; in fact, a complete unknown named Ombra Tamano got far more votes than Arroyo.

* * *

This episode reminds me of the shamefaced cheating of the Marcos forces in the 1978 elections for the Interim Batasan Pambansa, where the opposition was clobbered by unknowns. Recall how Ninoy Aquino, who led the Laban forces, stopped traffic in Metro Manila when he was allowed to briefly broadcast his campaign appeal over nationwide TV from his Fort Bonifacio cell; but in the end Ninoy and the whole opposition that included stalwarts such as Tito Guingona, Nene Pimentel and Ramon Mitra were cheated wholesale. Ninoy landed 19th, right next to the least known in Imelda Marcos' 18-member KBL ticket in Metro Manila.

* * *

The two political forces are trading charges and countercharges of fraud and no candidate seems willing to accept defeat. A number of candidates have asked that the canvassing be stopped in their respective areas due to massive fraud. What the two camps ought to do is to file their charges with the Comelec, but the canvassing should go on as it is worse to prolong it. What is needed at this stage is for the two camps' forces to continue their vigilance against cheating and document all instances of fraud, so that appropriate charges can be filed against the perpetrators. Citizens would love to see people go to jail for electoral fraud. Then too, when the dust of political battle settles, Congress has to legislate crucial electoral reforms to avoid a repeat of all the instability these frauds have caused, as well as the international black-eye we have suffered.

* * *

President Macapagal, garbed in blue slacks and the white and blue T-shirt and blue baseball hat given to her by the Alay sa Kawal (ASK) Foundation, showed up early at the Riviera Golf & Country Club in Silang, Cavite, to make the ceremonial tee-off last Saturday at the GMA Para sa Kawal Cup. The Riviera GMA Cup, a joint project of ASK and the Defense/AFP, was the first fund-raising cup participated in by the President in her four-month old presidency, and it showed her concern for the welfare of the ordinary soldiers. The GMA Cup aimed to raise funds for the widows and orphans of ordinary soldiers killed in action or discharged due to complete disability sustained in battle.

Just before the ceremonial tee-off, Ms Macapagal presided at a ceremony during which a soldier's widow with four children, Gina Pujol, received a check from ASK, becoming the 3,340th beneficiary of its financial benefit program. Two scholars of ASK's distance-education program conducted with the College Assurance Plan, one-armed S/Sgt. Henry Tuyay, who graduated with an AB in Criminology, and Evelyn Magnaye, a soldier's wife currently studying AB Sociology, were also presented.

The President said she was there to join the civilian founders of ASK in support of the soldiers and the police for their gallant role in strengthening our democracy in various crises. Ms Macapagal particularly thanked the soldiers and police who defended her and her administration in the May 1 assault on the Palace. Ms Macapagal donated P5 million from her social fund to ASK's fund drive for the widows and orphans.

* * *

We've all heard of President Macapagal's fabled discipline and at the Riviera Cup we saw this in action. Former President Ramos, ASK chair Ed Espiritu, Defense Chief Angelo Reyes and some generals who participated in the GMA Cup tried to persuade Ms Macapagal to stay and play at least nine holes. It must have been truly tempting to play, as the weather was just right for golf at the elevated Riviera course, overcast with a gentle breeze blowing from Manila Bay; the company was also very congenial. Ms Macapagal told the players that she hadn't played golf since she did at Club John Hay after the PMA graduation in Baguio over a month ago; since then so many events prevented the luxury of golf. Last Saturday, with all the charges and countercharges of fraud, Ms Macapagal could certainly have used some relaxation.

Last Saturday, she practiced a bit her swing before the ceremonial tee-off and she was in fine form as she drove the ceremonial ball. But she turned down the invitation to play the nine holes, as she had a loaded schedule. Changing to a dark pants suit at the Riviera, Ms Macapagal was off to Forbes Park Church to condole with the family of slain Quezon Rep. Marcial Punzalan and then visited her predecessor, former President Estrada, at the Veterans Hospital in Quezon City. That's President Macapagal's self-discipline.

* * *

The night before, the President and First Gentleman Mike Arroyo played host at an elegant dinner for Britain's Prince Andrew, who was on his second visit. The dinner catered by Gaita Fores featured violin renditions by John Lesaca (who's Ms Macapagal's *bilas*, being married to Mike Arroyo's younger sister) as well as exotic tribal dances and music by Grace Nono's group. These caught Prince Andrew's attention.

In his pre-dinner remarks Prince Andrew, decidedly the handsomest of Queen Elizabeth's sons, pointed out how much Britain and the Philippines, both island nations speaking "the same language," had in common, including "maritime problems." He also stressed that the Philippines was an "extremely important market" for Britain, and proof of this is that the UK has the highest investments here among the European Union countries. Prince Andrew also said the Philippines is an important partner of the UK particularly in the energy field, as in fact a British company, Shell Philippines Exploration, is the lead firm in the three-partner consortium now developing the US$4-5 billion Malampaya gas project in Southern Palawan, said to be the largest infrastructure project here.

* * *

Ms Macapagal, on the other hand, recalled, among other things, the prince's role in the Falklands War in the late '80s. Prince Andrew was a Navy helicopter pilot in that war and in fact is credited with helping to sink an Argentine warship. But the President also pointed out that the prince is about to shed his Navy uniform for his dark suit, as he is now busy promoting British trade around the world. Last Saturday, I also learned from Riviera Golf Club's British manager, John Blanch, that the prince this year became the "captain" (sort of like a president) of the world's oldest and most prestigious golf course, St. Andrew's in Scotland.

Sex and the septuagenarian

HIGH BLOOD

Elias V. Ortiz

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

I WAS born into a religious town at a time when sex meant simply the difference between what Adam and Eve are.

By then, a lady's drawers extended to the shins and there tied fast and secure. The knotted cord above the navel was more for defense against the devil from within rather than from unwarranted assaults from the third hind. With the bushy *saya* completing the armor, Don Juan had to think twice before embarking on his usual preoccupation. In fact, the mere raising of the *saya* was already a cumbersome venture; the labor involved in untying the cord or loosening the laces took long enough for Mariquita to resist or to change her mind...

The results were as foreseen and intended.

Old virgins abounded—one or two or three in every other household. Rape was virtually unknown. Sex, contrary to how we view it today, was truly for adults only—clean, safe fun sans the capsules and the props to correct erectile dysfunction.

The Church was very strict with women's veils and just as strict with women's attire that showed the knees.

So, it wasn't a surprise if the bards of the day concentrated their paeans on only a pair of lovely eyes, a pair of lovely lips and on a pair of lovely heels peeping under the bottom edges of lengthy bathing pantaloons. Other than the above, the rest of the paeans were risky conjectures.

Come to think of it. Could these be the reasons why during the early years of the century, the country's population stood at 9 million and took more years to reach 11 million?

Of course, a matter as dynamic as sex cannot remain leashed. It has to move, to boil, to free itself.

Succeeding decades bore witness to these tremors.

Rich food—nutritious, plentiful and cheap were within anybody's reach, in a country at peace with the world. What has this to do with a new generation stirring? There, too, was the man at ease on his hammock under the shade of a sprawling mango tree. Any relevance to a coming upheaval?

Soon, corpulence and opulence became ugly sights in wheelchairs, crutches, or in the morgues. The culprits were either high blood pressure or heart failure.

Alarm bells were pealed—something had to be done quickly to arrest the march of the looming terrors. But medicines were scarce and had to be imported from abroad. Local garlic was tried but proved too smelly. Abstinence from fatty foods was outright rejected by choosy stomachs.

How about trying...sex? Someone guardedly suggested...Yes, the doctors affirmed.

Yes, yes! the patients enthused.

Suddenly, the *querida* became a status symbol—the more the merrier. Rankings had to be invented in the face of fierce competition. Having one *querida* merited the equivalent of a bronze; two or more, a silver. Gold went to the rascal who impregnated two or more sisters in a family, or two or more cousins in related families.

There was one, his score was five legitimate children, and (hold your breath) 94 illegitimate children!

To the credit and in fairness to this particular modern patriarch, he was so affluent all his children were given the best education available. Under different maternal names, these children became successful in their chosen fields as colonels, lawyers, doctors, mayors, engineers, ambassadors, businessmen, sugar planters, etc.

Some priests were bronze winners—and lived long lives.

It was inevitable that by this time, the womenfolk woke up and started wondering what was happening to them. Thus, it was at this time that a powerful philandering husband was prevailed upon by his faithful and suffering wife to support women's suffrage.

Certainly, it was time for change—but how!

Cabarets sprouted and the *curacha* and the *kuradang*, for years venerated for their dancing pairs, dancing distanced from one another, yielded the floor to the tango with its "dip" that buried the "*baylerina*" in her partner's tight embrace.

Mariquita's tresses were cut down to neck-length ceding territory to the *croquignole* and its accompaniments—the shaved eyebrows relined black with pencil, lips painted bloody red, the dizzying allure of two emancipated giggling buttocks made more prominent by a skin-tight skirt in glossy baronet.

Finally, Mariquita's nickname "Itang" metamorphosed into "Marie."

The uneasy chrysalis had now emerged from its cocoon—a beautiful multicolored butterfly flitting about in the sunlight for all to see...everything.

Sex itself as first understood, underwent a more realistic change—now it's the apple that the earth's First Couple shared.

Yes, dem were the days which raised and toned down blood pressures, or calmed an aching heart. What a wonderful world!

I am sure I would not exchange them for today's bikini.

Elias V. Ortiz, 78, calls himself a tired lawyer whom Divine Providence has granted many, many postponements.

GMA, modernize these polls

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

"TECHNOLOGY, sufficiently advanced, is indistinguishable from magic."

This often-quoted gem from Carl Sagan, (or was it Jean Luc Picard?), suffers a dark and comic reversal when applied to Philippine elections. Here, the technology is sufficiently primitive as indeed, to be indistinguishable from magic, as in the colloquial, "*minamajik.*"

The latter itself probably resists attempts at full translation. But suffice it to say, that it is during this deceptive season of the snail-paced Comelec count, that truly miraculous processes occur. For example, the transformation of losers into winners, and vice versa; the morphing of money; the suspension of the elementary rules of arithmetic; and the transubstantiation of election returns into official licenses to rule and plunder.

Basically unchanged since Spanish times, the paper-ballot based election system is simply unsuited to handle the registration of over 35 million voters, spread out over 200,000 precincts in over 40,000 barangays, and polling, securing and counting their votes for presidents, senators, congressmen, mayors and other officials, every three years.

Imagine if the banking system were to do everything basically by hand, from record-keeping to balancing the books, without so much as a calculator or a spreadsheet program. It would be the very madness and chaos, such as we see at election time.

Thus, the public's fulminating anger at the Comelec for failing to undertake its legislatively mandated task of computerizing the election system, ordered in 1997, is more than justified. But even had the Comelec been totally dedicated to the task, it might not have been up to it. Even though it seems to be true that the Comelec has fallen down on the job in the last few years, no one should underestimate the enormity of the task actually involved in the idea of "computerizing the elections."

As a famous saying in the industry goes, "Humans are smarter than computers, but computers are smarter than programmers." We may know exactly what we want in an automated election system, but it may take a lot of work to actually get it. Election watchdog, Namfrel, was itself dogged by computer problems this past week.

The glacial pace of the Comelec count, which can take weeks to complete, is the most detested and suspicious aspect of the paper-based balloting system. As generally conceded, the opportunities for election fraud lie mainly in the numerous stages of counting and tallying, innocuously called "canvassing." Only by eliminating these intermediate stages of handling and counting can the ideal be approached. Is this possible? I don't see why not.

The quickest count conceivable, and the most secure, is where the citizen's vote is counted as it is cast. Perhaps the voting booths of the future, in addition to their cardboard privacy features, will be equipped with cell phones that automatically transmit each vote, along with voter identification, directly to Comelec national headquarters. Counted once and for all, just seconds after it is cast, each vote stands a greater chance of being tallied as intended by the voter. A second innovation some would suggest for such a futuristic Filipino polling booth, is that a picture of the voter casting the vote be taken and recorded with the vote, as a deterrent verification feature. The next generation of cell phones on the market already have just such advanced capabilities.

The technology for this already exists and is even ubiquitous. The common automatic teller machine (ATM) and the networks that run them are one example of efficient, secure systems that could be adapted for election purposes. (Some would argue that they are already used for election purposes, but that's really another issue.) The voter's ID card of the future should be nothing more complicated than an ATM card.

But there are many technical pitfalls, not the least of which is the rapid rate of obsolescence that computer hardware and software undergo, bad choices in which can lead to embarrassingly expensive and unworkable systems. It can hardly be conceived and implemented piece-meal, as it must seamlessly integrate registration, polling and canvassing while ensuring the security, or as the Constitution says, the sanctity, of the ballot.

It would not be a trivial accomplishment, when one considers the daunting technical and the human problems to be solved, not to speak of cost. I suspect that some substantial innovation and long concerted effort, are required to accomplish the goal of automated elections. No one is going to just snap their fingers in an act of political will and expect an ideal election system to emerge, neatly shrink-wrapped. Modernizing the polls, for real, requires real insight in how to use technology to safeguard democratic processes like elections from the foibles of human free will and psychology.

It ought to be at the top of the President's flagship programs, to be worked on by her most talented people, since it pertains to the most important social infrastructure we have, that of democratic elections. Modernizing the polls could be the impetus, the organizing principle, for a real thrust into the knowledge economy, with its attendant streams of development required in human resources, network systems, telecoms infrastructure, public document management and verification technologies.

If President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo can be the national leader who finally drags our election systems screaming into the 21st century, skipping entirely the 20th, her accomplishment would echo in history far more than any gladiatorial "I will crush you!" Her championing of information and computer technology might find its most lasting contribution in modernizing the polls, "before the decade is out," let us say, in imitation of JFK's moonshot, and hope in similar side benefits.

Lesser front-page news

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

HOW many stories should the front page of the INQUIRER have? Seven, eight, 10, or as many as the page can accommodate? Should major news reports be written to fit the front page only?

For reader Jan Hoekstra of Infanta, Quezon, no more than two stories should be placed at the show window of the newspaper. He wrote: "Usually, your front page has about eight leading stories. Some with only a few lines and asking the readers to turn to the other pages.

"I think this is a rather outdated method and for many readers it is annoying. Your newspaper does not deserve that. May I please ask you to consider two leading stories on the front page only. To turn to the other pages eight times is too much."

Before I bring up the editor in chief's response to the reader's letter, there are some information tidbits about the front page that I think will be of interest to those who want to know more about the inner workings of the newspaper.

From Monday to Saturday, the average number of news or stories at the INQUIRER's front page is seven. If that self-imposed limit cannot be achieved, the maximum number is nine. On Sundays, the cut-off is five stories.

Those articles have to share space with timely photos and cartoons (either the in-house carabao mascot, Goyito, or caricatures) within a 31.8 cm x 53 cm, six-column front-page area.

The no-more-than-nine stories policy is aimed at maintaining a neat and orderly look at the front page. Anything beyond that number would make the newspaper look like an "unmade morning after bed," a description that some wags said applied to the newspaper during its early days.

Less stories, and instead dramatic photos, grace the front page during Sundays for a special reason: to contribute to the relaxing mood of the weekend. A respite is taken from the stressful news of the day. Stories that will warm the heart, or show the innate goodness of Filipinos, or assure us that not everything is bad in this country greet the reader on Sundays when he unfolds the newspaper.

Boring page

While the editor in chief does not take issue with the reader's observation that looking for the continuation of the news in other pages can be annoying, she believes allocating only two news or stories at the front page will bore the majority of the readers.

If everything relevant about the two stories is placed at the front page, the page will look "texty" or filled with black ink. Even if one or two photos or caricatures are placed in between the news to break the monotony, the page will still project an all-black appearance. That look, plus the lengthy run of the stories, could discourage the reader from reading beyond the first two paragraphs of the news.

She also pointed out that in her long years in journalism she has yet to see a broadsheet (as distinguished from a tabloid) that carries only two stories at the front page. The usual number is from five to seven.

There is no problem with tabloids limiting the coverage of their front pages to two stories. Because of their size, which is half that of broadsheets, two stories and a covering photo will already cover the entire page without straining the reader's eyes.

Wrapping up, the editor in chief said the look of the INQUIRER's front page today reflects what she believes is most appealing or attractive to its core of readers. The style is not etched in stone. It may change depending on the mood or attitude of the readers, or trends in modern journalism.

Objective reporting

Although outside of the country, a reader, Raymond Guevara (with e-mail address okto67@hotmail.com), followed closely the May 14 elections and took time to write us in regard to the way the INQUIRER reported the news about the recent political exercise.

He expressed concern about "the way you handled the news on the elections, especially on the senatorial race. I am not a pro-Erap supporter or a die hard PPC supporter, but I would just like to ask—why do you have to always relate the stocks' fall to the early election returns in favor of the opposition? And based on your headline, it seems that you're favoring the administration candidates.

"Where is the 'balanced news' that you're bragging about in your slogan? Can't you just report the news objectively without any insinuations on the win or loss of any party? I think it's the media that are responsible for the 'politicking' of our nation. The Filipinos tend to believe that all the articles you're writing are 100 percent true.

"Please be responsible enough to write the truth. Nothing more, nothing less."

According to the editor in chief, the news report that linked the drop in stock prices to early election returns that appeared to be in favor of the opposition candidates was based on the statements made by stockbrokers and analysts. The pessimistic mood was expressed by these stock experts, not the reporters and editors.

Was the report a manifestation of the newspaper's pro-administration stance? No, said the editor in chief. The sentiments of the stock traders were reported without regard for the political group that may benefit or get hurt in the process. Too bad, the investors' views were not flattering to the opposition.

With regard to the other concerns raised by reader, the editor in chief explained that the newspaper reports the events as they happen. Every effort is made by the staff to get all the sides in an event or controversy before the deadline for putting the news in final form comes. The side that was not included in the news will find its place in the newspaper the following day.

According to her, from the point of view of journalists, the "truth" is what appears to be accurate and reliable at the time the report is submitted for publication. In case the "truth' turns out to be untrue, then the newspaper should make the proper correction or apology in the succeeding issue.

Honest mistake

Jose Pebo of Horseshoe Village, Quezon City, is very unhappy with the way the INQUIRER treated senatorial candidate Moner Bajunaid.

Pebo wrote: "Last Sunday (May 13) and the previous Sundays, Bajunaid's name was not included in the list of senatorial candidates published in your newspaper. Is this a case of discrimination against a Muslim and social democratic candidate?

"Bajunaid had a number of paid political ads with picture in your paper. It appears that if you have no money to yield, your name will not see print. I always believed your paper did not discriminate against anybody. Can you then explain the seeming discrimination against Bajunaid?"

Indeed, Bajunaid's name and photo were not included in the listing published on May 13. For some unexplained reason, the editorial staff overlooked or missed his name in the roster of official candidates it used in preparing the photo gallery.

The INQUIRER apologizes for the error. It would like to assure Bajunaid and his supporters that there was no intention on its part to discriminate against him, Muslims or social democrats. It regrets whatever damage the mistake may have caused him and his party.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through Fax Nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

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Sickened with our electoral antics

ANY decent Filipino must be appalled and downright disgusted at our elections. It appears that considerable effort is directed at cheating. The obvious game plan is to delay and manipulate the results such that the true results are either not reflected or their credibility is questioned.

What image do we project of ourselves? If our leaders cheat, who would respect us? Will honesty ever be our strongest suit? Come to think of it, despite the inane behavior of our leaders, our lowly overseas contract workers, even the simple domestic helpers, have shown a level of demeanor that ought to shame our leaders. Should we really address our leaders as honorable?—**ARTEMIO T. ORDINARIO, M.D., professor, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Santo Tomas, España, Manila**

Delayed benefits for vets' surviving spouse

I AM the wife of a veteran, Basiano V. Aranas of Poblacion, Samboan, Cebu. My husband died on May 25, 1999. After his death, I sent all the requirements needed to the Philippine Veterans' Affairs Office so I could avail myself of the benefits as the surviving spouse.

It has been almost two years now since my husband died, but until now there has been no response from the PVAO.

How many more years do I have to wait? I am now 81 years old. I hope this administration can do something about my case. Let me enjoy what is lawfully mine while there is still time.—**FLORENCIA R. ARANAS, Poblacion, Samboan, Cebu**

Denial betrays Velarde's guilt

TOO little too late. This best describes the attempt of El Shaddai leader Mike Velarde to wash his hands of any responsibility for the bloodshed and mayhem caused by deposed President Joseph Estrada's supporters last May 1.

Velarde's advertisement denying his and the El Shaddai's participation in the Edsa rally that culminated in the bloody attempt by Erap's loyalists to grab power only betrayed their guilt.

During the days leading to that bloody Tuesday, El Shaddai members were among those who gave inflammatory speeches. Their presence there gave credence to reports that the El Shaddai was supporting the rally.

The reports of the El Shaddai's support were bolstered by the fact that Velarde is widely known as a supporter of Estrada and has financially gained during Estrada's tenure. But did Velarde attempt at that time to clarify the El Shaddai's involvement in the gathering? No!

If it were true that the hierarchy of the El Shaddai had nothing to do—or gave no blessing—to some of its members' active participation in that Edsa rally, why was there no attempt to deny or disown the incendiary speeches of some El Shaddai officers?

Now that some people were killed and injured when Erap's supporters attempted to storm Malacañang, Velarde declares that "if there are members who have joined the rallies in the past few days, they have done so on their own free will."

We would have believed him if he had spoken those words at the height of the rallies.—**EDGAR MANUGO, Ilaya Street, Poblacion, Makati City**

US-China strains will test Asian loyalties says report

NEWS ANALYSIS

Bernice Han

SINGAPORE—Strained US-China ties will test the loyalties of Asian governments trying to maintain a neutral line between both powers, according to a regional analysis.

In an Asian Intelligence report, Political Economic and Risk Consultancy (PERC) said it will become increasingly difficult for Asian governments to remain neutral because of the huge economic and military influence wielded by Washington and Beijing.

While regional governments would prefer to see the United States and China as stabilizing forces, recent events have made this increasingly unlikely, it said.

"The US is now having a greater destabilizing influence," PERC argued in the report titled "The Impact of China and the US on Stability in Asia."

It said the April 1 collision between a US spy plane and a Chinese fighter jet, and President George W Bush's decision to go ahead with a major arms sales package to Taiwan showed Sino-US ties were heading for tough times.

"Being simply a passive spectator of the drama that is unfolding between China and the US is not really an option for other Asian countries.

"Both the North and South of Asia are in the same boat when it comes to being affected by US-China developments."

The lack of an Asian response to the spy incident was said to reflect the deep extent of regional concerns about deteriorating ties between the two giants.

"What was not said speaks volumes about what most Asian governments are worried about. They do not want US-China relations to deteriorate to the point where the only focus is on its competitive nature," PERC said.

"Neither do they want one side or the other to win or lose."

Instead, most Asian governments would prefer to have the United States and Chinese economies grow strongly, providing crucial markets for Asian exports.

"They (Asia) do not want the US to dictate its values to the region or the rules of trade and investment, but neither do they want it to withdraw from the region and leave China to pursue its economic and political agendas without the US as a counterbalance," PERC said.

Weak sentiment on the US stock markets and a sharp downturn in its economy have hurt Asia, PERC said.

On the other hand, China's economy is continuing to grow but structural flaws remain which have the potential to derail the rest of the region.

"As good as China's economic numbers look, the country has huge systemic problems, from an inefficient financial sector to state-owned enterprises badly in need of reform," PERC said.

While China offers a huge market for Asian exports, it is also a competitor for foreign investment funds and resources, which means Asian countries must tread carefully in dealing with Beijing, said PERC.

Apart from India, the rest of Asia "would prefer to emphasize ways they can work with China to their mutual benefit, while adopting a softer approach to the potential differences."

While the United States remained the major export market for the region, China's importance was seen to be increasing.

The desire to develop business with the mainland as its economy grows "is prompting most governments to avoid being too outspoken in their criticism of China," the report said.

"Even places that have major political differences with the mainland, like Taiwan, have grown increasingly dependent on China both as a market and as a very competitive manufacturing site for producing exports," it said.

But as much as China has tried to portray itself as a good neighbor, it was also prepared to throw its weight around and this is cause for concern, PERC said.

"Asia has had a hard time adjusting to the post Cold War paradigm," PERC said.

But recent events such as the spy plane incident will be "the catalysts that push most Asian governments toward a new type of 'neutrality'."

AFP

Well done, PPCRV

I WISH to thank and congratulate on behalf of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting's national executive board the 467,346 PPCRV volunteers (bishops, priests and laity) for bearing witness in "faith and fire." This is the call of the gospel to continually transform and renew the temporal order by way of exemplary participation in prayer and work for our voters' education and poll watching during the May 14, 2001 national and local elections.

Our collective effort is an embodiment of the living faith which seeks a socially involved lay faithful, for the dignity of the human person involves the right to take an active part in public affairs and share something for the common good. Man, far from being an object and, as it were, a merely passive element in the social order, is in fact a key player in society.

Rest assured that so long as there shall exist the need for political vigilance in the electoral culture of our motherland, the PPCRV through your continued support, shall always be in the forefront of the battle. *Mabuhay ang ating bansa at mabuhay tayong lahat!*—**BRO. CLIFFORD T. SORITA, secretary general, Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, Rm. 301, Pius XII Catholic Center, UN Avenue, Manila**

TV appearance isn't campaigning

CERTAIN quarters have claimed that some senatorial candidates, including me, Jun Magsaysay, Noli de Castro and Francis Pangilinan, violated the election law when we appeared on television in the morning of May 15.

Let me stress that we were invited by the TV stations to exchange views on the conduct of the May 14 elections. We did not engage in an election campaign or partisan political activity.

Let me cite the prohibition under Section 2 of Resolution No. 3636, Rules and Regulations Implementing Republic Act No. 9006 otherwise known as the "Fair Election Act" for the May 14, 2001 national and local elections, which states:

"Sec. 2 Prohibited campaign—It is unlawful for any person, or for any political party or association of persons to engage in an election campaign or partisan political activity, outside of the campaign period.

"Any election campaign or partisan political activity is prohibited on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, day before election day and on election day."

Section 1 of the resolution defines election campaign or partisan political activity as referring "to any act designed to promote the election or defeat of a particular candidate or candidates to a public office which may include any of the following:

"iii. Making speeches, announcements or commentaries, or holding interviews for or against the election of any candidate for public office."

It is important to note that not all post-election discussions in media are prohibited. To consider post-election discussions by the media a violation of our election laws is to put undue restraint on the freedom of every citizen to discuss in public his or her own views on the election and other matters.

Please note also that the prohibition applies to any person, including TV hosts, radio commentators and newspaper columnists, and not just candidates.

One does not have to be a lawyer to see that mere appearance on a TV program the morning after election day to discuss the conduct of the polls is not at all engaging in an election campaign or partisan political activity, as defined by laws.—**SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON, Senate, GSIS Building, Financial Center, Pasay City**

Undeserved notoriety

I READ with interest Neil Cruz's column last May 15, especially the part where he stated that Sen. Vicente Sotto had identified me as one of the "dirty tricks experts" of the People Power Coalition.

I could have simply let it pass as one of those juicy journalistic items we chance upon every now and then, but the interest of truth has to be served. So I am writing to put in the proper light some of the things that have been ascribed to me.

Cruz gave me more credit than I deserve. I should thank him for this but the attributes he bestowed upon me are undeserved.

Once upon a time during the fight against the dictatorship, and especially during the 1986 snap election, I was one of those who put their lives on the line working in the political trenches of Muslim Mindanao for Cory Aquino. Subsequently, I was elected and served as mayor of Quezon City where I tried to serve as best as I could.

Today, I am a private citizen dividing my time between earning a decent living and being an active member of the Couples for Christ. My participation in this year's election was limited to being a voter and as campaign coordinator of the CFC's participation in the 13-0 Movement. The 13-0 Movement works parallel with the PPC's campaign organization. They are two separate organizations working for the same objective.

To say that I am one of the "dirty tricks experts" of the PPC and to picture me as one whose name "sends shivers down the spines of candidates" who are not my "clients" is at best uncharitable. For one who has been derisively described by some as a "political washout," causing the replacement of a Commission on Elections registrar, is too mind-boggling a feat.

In closing, let me state that it is a surprise to learn that Eduardo Soliman and Wenceslao Andanar are "former interior undersecretaries" and that Alcolen Dalaig is a "close associate of mine."

Finally, Sotto and I were together in the Quezon City Hall. We started in 1988 as a political team and ended our stint in City Hall in 1992 as friends, even outside the political arena. We now belong to opposing political camps, but I do not believe he would identify me as a cheat.—**BRIGIDO "JUN" SIMON, Quezon City**

No Steniel Paper Corp. in SEC records

WE write on behalf of our client, Steniel Manufacturing Corp. and refer to the article with the headline, "PNP report names coup financiers," published on May 9, 2001..

The article identifies Henry Lim, owner of Steniel Paper Corp. as one of the coup financiers based on a Philippine National Police report. We have verified the records of the Securities and Exchange Commission and were able to confirm that no corporation by that name is registered with the SEC. Our client's stock transfer agent, Stock Transfer Service Inc., has also informed us that no person by the name of Henry Lim holds any shares of stock in Steniel Manufacturing Corp. You may wish to verify the accuracy of this information through the SEC and the stock transfer agent.

Unfortunately, Steniel Paper Corp. may be mistaken for our client, Steniel Manufacturing Corp. Note that one of the principal activities engaged in by our client is the production of paper products. Our client also has several subsidiaries, some of which begin with the name of "Steniel." If the public does not mistake our client to be one and the same entity as Steniel Paper Corp., it may instead assume that the latter is a subsidiary of our client.

Considering the nationwide distribution of your paper and the prominence given the article, as well as its online reproduction on your website, we fear that the undue implication of our client, through no fault of his own, may have resulted in substantial damage to its reputation.—**PERRY L. PE AND LARISSA G. LAMBINO, Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De Los Angeles, 30th Floor, Citibank Tower, Citibank Plaza, Makati City**

Like playing with jackstones

THERE are three hierarchies of lust: the lust for sex, the lust for worldly goods and the lust for power. Among the three, power is the ultimate ambition.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who is believed to be the most powerful person in and out of Philippine politics, achieved the ultimate ambition a long time ago. Like most powerful persons, however, he is bored because beyond power, there is nothing more to pine for.

And so to prevent boredom, he and his ilk calibrate power to higher degrees: the power to dominate a village, the power to dominate a town, the power to dominate a city, the power to dominate a nation, the power to dominate the world and the power to dominate the universe.

The closest thing to being God is dominating the universe. But since even Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago would agree that this is hard to do, an alternative godlike exercise is playing with power as though it were a game of jackstones.

The bemused demeanor that Enrile exhibited when he was arrested in his residence showed that he had just concluded a game of "jackstones." Now he is ready for a new set.

Enrile was once asked why he does not retire from public office. He answered that politics keeps him from getting bored. Politics is his hobby and playing with the Filipino people, especially with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, entertains him, keeps him from feeling lonely, listless and without purpose.

Is there hope that this demigod will find a better motive for living? There is, but he should not tarry like another demigod. As he lay dying, Ferdinand Marcos must have regretted having said, "I do not intend to die." It was too late for him to redefine his puny human mortality.—**AMETTA SUAREZ TAGUCHI, 45 Justo Gaerlan St., Cagayan de Oro City**

NFA stand on rice imports not explained

WE would like to respond to the letter of Anthony Abad of the National Food Authority published on May 17, regarding the NFA's clarification on the issue of rice importation.

Abad was not able to explain the NFA's position regarding the P2.4-billion income lost to farmers as they imported 150,000 MT of rice last March. Sadly as he avoided this point, he also failed to address the root of the issue we are posing that the importation will not solve the lack of capability of our farmers to provide food security for our country.

Food security will only be attained through increasing the productivity of the local agricultural production by providing sufficient government support and the immediate distribution of land to landless farmers.

Abad's immediate response only seeks to gather "*pogi*-points" and cover up the NFA's inutile efforts to help the Filipino peasantry. He also exposed the government's intention to mislead the readers by justifying that the rice importations are for our buffer stocks.

The truth is that the government is merely complying with conditions set by the World Trade Organization-Agreement on Agriculture (WTO-AoA).

We also challenge Abad's championing of the NFA's palay-buying. Farmers can attest that the NFA does not buy palay in many areas. The NFA merely functions as a broker between foreign countries and our government in rice importation nowadays. Also, the NFA failed to influence palay prices as rice cartels dictate the prevailing price of P6 per kilo of palay.

We therefore demand the immediate distribution of land; prioritize the allotment of larger funds for agriculture; make subsidies on seeds, fertilizers and pesticides available; establish a low-interest loan program; increase the palay-buying capability of the NFA; and the construction of more irrigation and storage facilities. We also call on the government to pull agriculture out of the WTO-AoA.

The privatization of the NFA, the ever-increasing rice importation, the inutile land reform and agriculture programs of the government are legitimate bases for the continued struggle of our peasants for a better agricultural program.—**PABLO ROSALES, secretary general, Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readers advocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

22 Arab states urged to stop all contacts with Israel

CAIRO—An Arab League committee recommended Saturday its 22 members cold-shoulder Israel by stopping all political contacts with the Jewish state as long as its "aggression" against the Palestinians continues.

A spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon immediately rejected the move, saying the Arabs were "shooting themselves in the foot" if they believed it would advance hopes for peace in the Middle East.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Abdel Ilah al-Khatib said the call was justified by "the uselessness of political contacts," which he said had failed to stop nearly eight months of violence which have left over 550 people dead, the vast majority Palestinian.

The Arab League's new chief Amr Mussa said earlier Saturday that the Arab world's credibility would be at stake if it failed to take action to support the Palestinians.

The committee recommended "stopping all Arab political contacts with the Israeli government as long as the aggression and blockades against the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Authority continue."

The statement made no mention of diplomatic contacts.

Set up last October to monitor the fighting, the committee also agreed to keep backing the Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation "whatever the price," former Egyptian foreign minister Amr Mussa said.

It was the Arab League's first significant meeting since Mussa took the helm of the pan-Arab organization on Wednesday and was attended by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

The meeting also followed overnight raids by Israeli warplanes on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, for the first time since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, which left 12 people dead in the West Bank.

The committee reinvigorated an oft-repeated demand for the international community to send an observer force to protect Palestinian civilians living in the Palestinian territories, according to its final statement read to journalists by deputy Arab League secretary general Ahmed ben Helli.

"Rapid international intervention to put an end to the organized slaughter (is) needed to deal with the war crimes committed against civilians," Mussa said during the meeting.

The League's follow-up committee groups the foreign ministers of Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen as well as the Palestinians and the Arab League chief.

Both Arafat and Mussa warned that a lack of international action against Israel had allowed it to freely expand its acts of "aggression" against the Palestinians. *AFP*

HK still gassing chickens; bird flu hits Macau

HONG KONG—Health workers packed live chickens, quail and pigeons into trash cans and gassed them Saturday, part of a plan to eradicate Hong Kong's avian flu outbreak by slaughtering 1.2 million birds at markets and farms.

Officials said the slaughter was a necessary precaution, even though the disease has not affected humans. In an outbreak in 1997, six people died and dozens were sickened, and the government killed all of the territory's 1.4 million chickens.

"Our urgent task now is to destroy all chickens and clean the markets," Secretary for Environment and Food Lily Yam said after inspecting a market. "But for the next step, we'll review all our prevention and monitoring measures." At the territory's main wholesale market, health workers in white gowns, masks and gloves pumped carbon dioxide into trash cans stuffed with the birds to suffocate 43,500 of them. The carcasses were packed into plastic bags and taken to a dump.

"It is a speedy method for mass culling," said Charles Au, an agricultural official in charge of the slaughter at the market.

Hundreds of birds have died of the H5N1 strain of avian influenza this week.

About 169,000 chickens and other birds had been slaughtered in the 74 wholesale and retail markets by late Saturday, according to the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Food and Environmental Hygiene Department, which are in charge of the cull.

The government will also kill all mature birds on farms in the next two weeks as a precaution. Yam said she expected the slaughter to take six weeks and cost more than US$10 million.

Authorities in nearby Macau also started slaughtering poultry and suspended imports from Mainland China after cases of avian flu were detected.

The outbreak also prompted the Philippines to ban imports of chickens and other birds from Hong Kong and China on Saturday. Japan, which has not imported any poultry from Hong Kong since last year, issued a formal ban Friday.

Taiwan has stepped up its screening of travelers from Hong Kong and asked chicken farmers to put up nets over their farms to prevent migrant birds from spreading the flu virus.

Poultry wholesalers criticized the government for not consulting them on the decision to slaughter all poultry at markets and complained of inadequate compensation. Each poultry seller will get $5,100.

"This is going to break our rice bowls. The compensation is not enough," said poultry dealers' spokesman Chan Yu-yuk.

With poultry imports from mainland China banned and market stalls closed, the supply of live poultry—a popular food for many in Hong Kong—will be cut off for the coming weeks. *AP*

AMID WORLD CONCERNS

Israel continues attacks

NABLUS, West Bank—Despite American and Russian calls for an end to violence, Israeli helicopters shelled Palestinian police headquarters in two West Bank towns on Saturday.

The rocket attack came a day after Israeli warplanes struck Palestinian territories for the first time in eight months of fighting in retaliation for a deadly bombing near Tel Aviv.

Palestinians said Saturday that Israel had given the US administration prior information of the air strike on Friday. A spokesman at the US Embassy in Tel Aviv denied the United States knew about the raid beforehand.

No Palestinians were killed in Saturday's rocket attack on Tulkarem and Jenin but three Palestinians were killed in separate incidents as sporadic clashes erupted throughout the Palestinian territories.

The bloodshed Saturday came a day after US President George Bush declared that the violence makes it "so difficult for there to be any political settlement."

Russian President Vladimir Putin called Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Saturday to ask that "all measures" be taken to stop the fighting, Putin's office said. The Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Israel's air strike on Friday was "clearly improper use of military force."

In a blow to diplomatic efforts in the region, the Arab League decided Saturday to sever "all Arabic political communication with Israel," according to an official statement from the meeting in Cairo.

It was not immediately clear how the decision would affect an Egyptian-Jordanian proposal for the cessation of violence and resumption of peace talks.

Raanan Gissin, an advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said the Arab decision only encouraged the Palestinians to continue the bloodshed. "They're shooting themselves in the foot," Gissin said of the decision.

In Saturday's helicopter strike, about 30 Palestinians were injured in Tulkarem when missiles hit security headquarters, heavily damaging three buildings and seven vehicles. No one was injured in the Jenin strike that targeted offices of the elite Force 17 guard and intelligence forces.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said after his arrival in Gaza from the meeting of the Arab League in Cairo that the Palestinians remained steadfast despite the Israeli show of military might. *AP*

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MECHANICS

1. Every purchase of Eight O'Clock Orange Drink Mix (Original flavor, Orange-Mango, Orange-Pineapple, Litro packs) entitles the consumer to join the raffle.

2. The following packs and combinations are considered as one raffle entry:
- *One (1) 1.5 kg pack*
- *One (1) 1 kg pack*
- *One (1) 500 g pack*
- *Three (3) 45 g Litro packs*
- *One (1) 1.25 kg pack*
- *One (1) 750 g pack*
- *Two (2) 250 g pack*
- *Ten (10) 22 g Single Serve packs.*

3. The participant should write his/her name, complete address, contact numbers and signature with the name of the store where he purchased Eight O'clock in a piece of paper and enclose it in a white long letter envelope together with any of the above proof of purchase combinations, and drop it in drop boxes located in supermarkets and local ABS-CBN stations or mail them to:

"Revo Revo sa Ocho-Ocho"
Sugarland Beverage Corporation
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453 Carlos Palanca St., Quiapo, Manila

4. There will only be one (1) draw to be held in ABS-CBN's MTB variety show. The raffle draw will be on August 8, 2001.

5. The entries will be separated according to area, as follows: GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO.

6. All entries will be drawn in the presence of a DOH-BFAD representative.

7. Shall any conflict arise from the drawing of entries, the decision of the Sugarland and/or Agency representative will be deemed final subject to the concurrence from the DOH-BFAD representative.

8. For the grand prize, there will be four (4) winners for the Toyota Revo, each coming from the different areas. The store where he purchased the product will receive P10,000.00.

9. The consolation prize winners will also be drawn according to area.

10 The consolation prizes are as follows :
- *Two (2) winners of P100,000.00 in GMA*
- *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Luzon*
- *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Visayas*
- *Two (2) winners of P 100,000.00 in Mindanao*

11. The grand draw and corresponding cut-off date is as follows:
DRAW DATE : AUGUST 8, 2001 / CUT OFF DATE : JULY 30, 2001

12. Winner's will be announced over ABS-CBN'S MTB variety show and will also be published in newspapers and notified by registered mail as to where and when they can claim their prizes

13. The winner should bring 2 valid IDs with picture and the letter/telegram from Sugarland when claiming their prizes.

14. The winner will be responsible for the registration and insurance of the vehicle and the shipping of his/her prize if needed.

15. A winner can only win once. Should his/her name be drawn more than once, he gets the prize of higher value. Another name will be drawn for the other prize.

16. Prizes are not convertible to cash and are not transferrable.

17. All prizes are subject to tax & should be shouldered by the winner.

18. Winners will be required to be photographed for advertising and publicity purposes.

19. Prizes not claimed after ninety (90) days from receipt of notice will be forfeited upon prior approval from DOH-BFAD.

20. Employees of Sugarland Beverage Corporation, La Tondena Distillers and San Miguel Corporation, its Distributors, advertising and promo agencies, including their relatives up to the second degree of affinity and consanguinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
Deadline for submission of entries is July 30, 2001

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A DEMOCRATIC Party-Struggle supporter holds aloft a photograph of Vice President Megawati during the party's anniversary celebration in East Java, May 20. Megawati, via a live videolink, told tens of thousands of supporters on Sunday she was not personally ambitious to rule the nation but would follow the wishes of her party to be president. REUTERS

Indonesia general to troops: Be loyal to the state, not to leaders

JAKARTA, Indonesia—A senior Indonesian military commander Sunday urged troops to remain loyal to the nation and not to any individual, after generals warned President Abdurrahman Wahid not to dissolve parliament or declare a state of emergency.

Meanwhile, more than 20,000 supporters of Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri—who would succeed Wahid if parliament impeaches him because of corruption allegations—rallied in the president's political heartland of East Java.

Lt. Gen. Ryamizard Ryacudu, who commands the 30,000-strong strategic reserve, also appealed to Wahid not to sack the army's hardline chief of staff, Gen. Endriartono Sutarto, a vocal critic of the president.

"We call the soldiers to be loyal to the unitary state of . . . Indonesia and not to any individual or any groups," Ryacudu said.

His comments came a day after Megawati, whose party has led the charge against Wahid, held an emergency meeting with top generals after reports that Wahid allegedly planned to replace military commanders, disband parliament, and declare martial law.

Although Wahid has vehemently denied such plans, Sutarto and other senior officers have kept the issue alive by repeatedly warning the head of state.

Wahid has been under intense pressure after parliament opened the way for impeachment by censuring him for alleged involvement in two graft scandals. The president maintains that forces loyal to former dictator Suharto are using the affair to undermine democratic reforms.

In recent days, there has been a flurry of meetings between Wahid's opponents and senior military figures. On Saturday, dozens of army leaders met privately to discuss the political situation.

They included former military commander Gen. Wiranto, who was sacked by Wahid last year over allegations of human rights abuses in East Timor, and other Suharto loyalists.

The army brass has been critical of Wahid ever since he tried to make them accountable for numerous human rights violations and dismantle their lucrative business empire. But the other services have been noncommittal, fueling speculation about a rift within the armed forces.

Analysts say that army generals have now thrown their support behind Megawati, a nationalist who has not expressed interest in military reform.

Megawati has refrained from commenting on the crisis but has said in the past that she wants to become president, without specifying when.

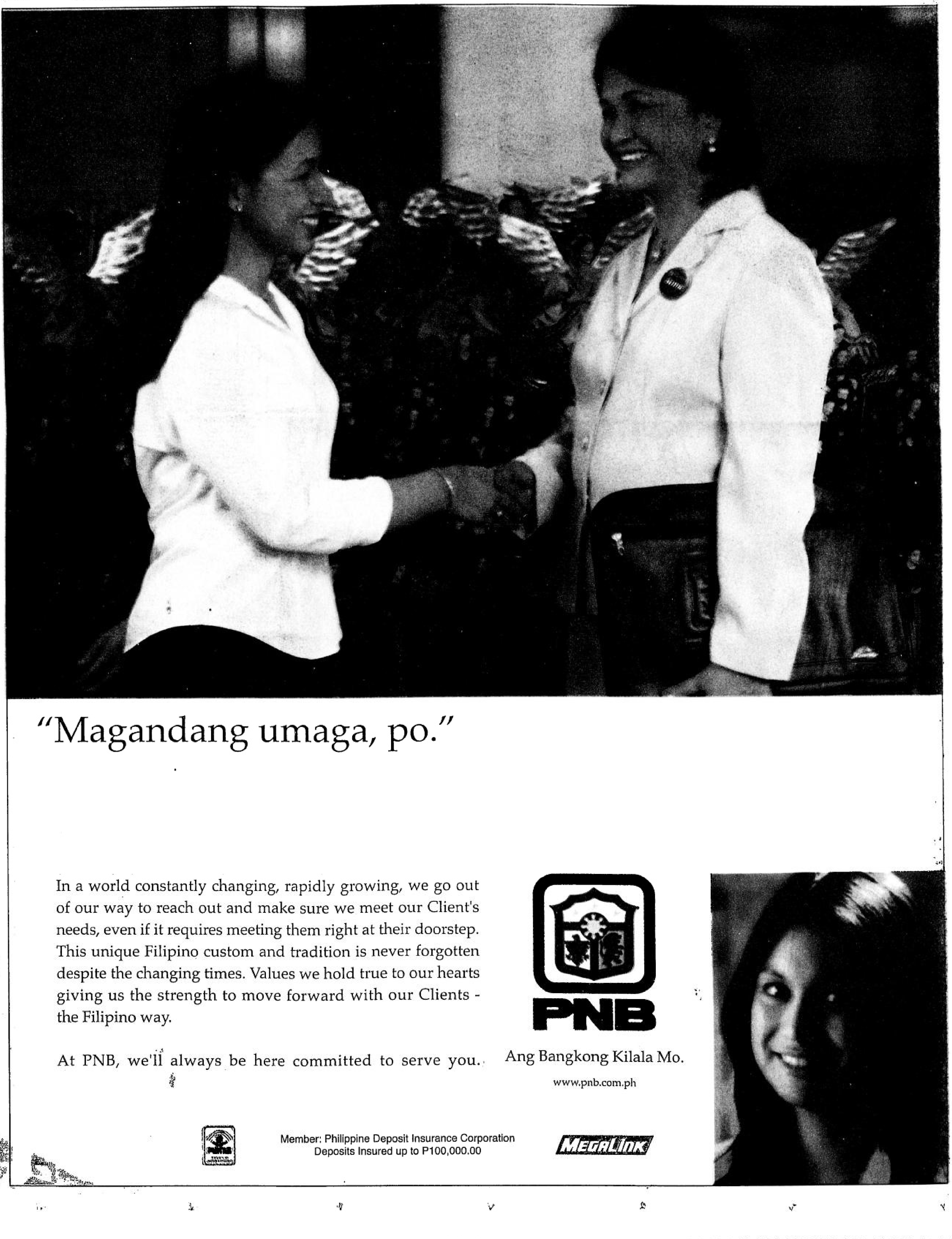
"I was elected by the party to become the next president," she told the rally in East Java.

"In these uncertain times, beware of rumors spread by irresponsible people who want to divide the nation," she said in a televised address.

At the ceremony in Jakarta, Ryacudu stressed that the military remained loyal to both the president and his deputy.

"I stress here there will be no coup against the country or the president by the army," he told about 1,000 troops assembled at the base.

In an apparent show of force, several squadrons of armored vehicles, mainly British-built Saracens, Scorpions and Saladins, were parked nearby. *AP*



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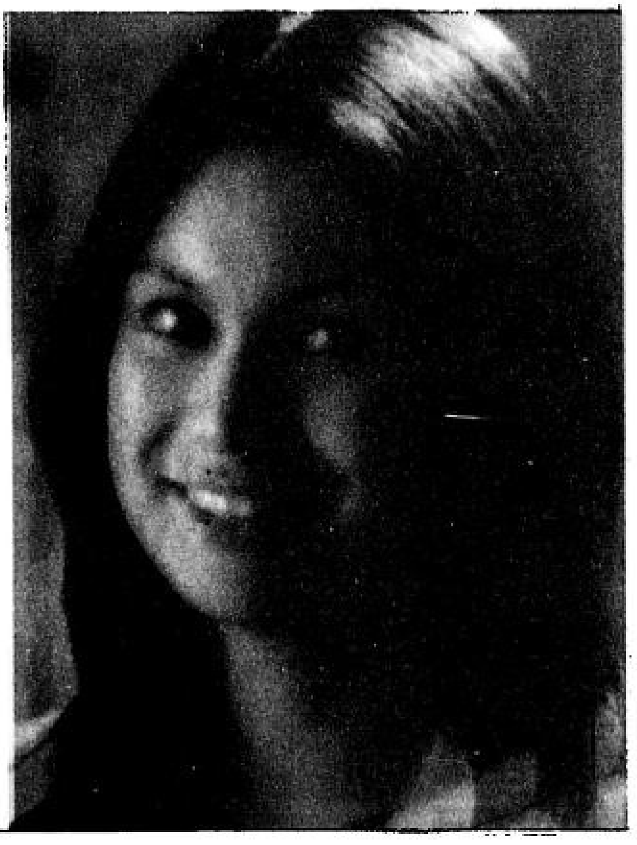

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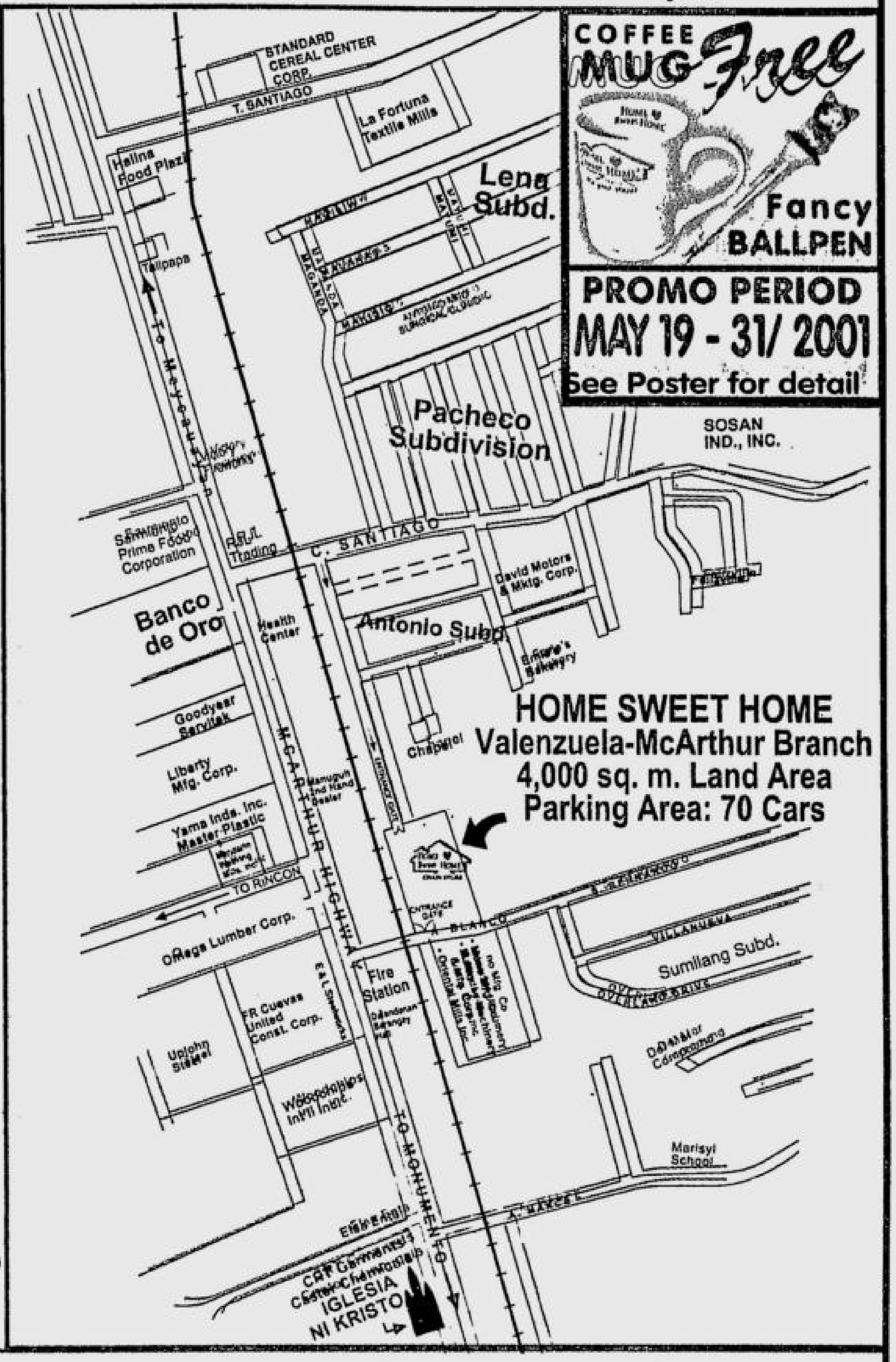
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Russia: US arguments for missile plan dubious

WASHINGTON—Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov on Saturday said his country remained unconvinced by US arguments in favor of deploying a national missile defense (NMD) shield, but expressed confidence that the upcoming US-Russian summit would be a boon to bilateral relations.

"The offered reasoning (on NMD) fails to convince us, and the majority of the world nations, that potential threats require the dismantling of the entire body of the agreements on disarmament and the jeopardizing of nonproliferation regimes," Ivanov told reporters here.

Nonetheless, he expressed optimism regarding the first summit between US President George Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin, scheduled for June 16 in Slovenia.

"We are convinced the forthcoming summit will give a positive momentum to the Russian-American dialogue on a wide range of international issues and the issues of our bilateral relations," Ivanov said.

"This was the focus of my meeting with the US President George Bush, who confirmed the readiness of the US leadership to pursue fruitful and constructive cooperation with Russia and conduct joint efforts to build a secure world in the 21st century."

During his short visit here, Ivanov—who met with Bush, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of State Colin Powell—firmly presented Russia's position that the United States was not entitled unilaterally to establish a national missile defense system.

Dismissing US contentions that nuclear weapons buildup in Iran or North Korea justified the as-yet-unproven missile defense system, Ivanov said the US position included a "substantial number of unclear issues . . . with regard to the 'new architecture of strategic stability.'"

Moscow sees the missile defense system as a clear violation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which has underpinned nuclear arms reduction efforts for three decades.

Washington has made clear that it views the treaty as a relic of the Cold War, when the former Soviet Union and the United States were locked in an arms race. The Russians, however, see the missile shield as the trigger for a new nuclear arms race.

Ivanov nonetheless saw "concordance" in US and Russian opinions over "further deep reductions" in offensive weapons and said the two sides have "agreed to continue the dialogue on all the aspects of the issue of strategic stability."

He said he would return to Moscow "fully confident" that the two nations understand "that new global challenges and threats can only be met through equal and mutually beneficial interaction between our countries." *AFP*

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Okinawans favor US base, survey shows

TOKYO—For the first time ever, a government survey found that Okinawans who support keeping the US military base on the southern islands of Japan outnumbered those who oppose it, newspaper reports said Sunday.

The Cabinet Office poll, conducted in February, found that 45.7 percent of residents say they accept the US military presence there, while 44.4 percent want the troops to leave, the survey by the Cabinet Office found, according to the mass-circulation Yomiuri newspaper.

The survey, carried out in February, asked 2,000 residents, 1,374 of whom responded, the Yomiuri said. The poll, taken every few years since 1974, did not give a margin of error.

It was the first time that opinions weighed in favor—albeit slightly—of the US military base since the government began asking the question in 1985.

The Asahi newspaper carried a similar report.

Many residents back the US forces because of the job opportunities on the base, the Yomiuri reported.

The poll figures came as Okinawa's governor visited the United States. Gov. Keiichi Inamine has urged US officials to cut military forces on his southern Japanese island, following a recent series of crimes and embarrassing remarks by US troops and officers stationed there.

Located 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo, Okinawa is home to half of the 47,000 US military forces stationed in Japan.

It has been an important US base in the Pacific since it was occupied at the end of World War II, but residents have long sought a reduction in US presence, complaining of crime by servicemen, crowding on the island, environmental issues and other problems.

In January, a US Marine was arrested on suspicion of setting fire to a restaurant and bar on Okinawa. He pleaded guilty to the arson charges.

A month later, the commander of US forces on Okinawa, Lt. Gen. Earl Hailston, was forced to apologize following reports that he called local leaders "wimps" and "nuts" when they complained about US military conduct. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Swiss tourists rescued

GOUMOIS, France—Divers rescued eight exhausted Swiss tourists Saturday from a cave in eastern France, three days after floodwaters trapped them in a world of darkness and fear. The dozens of rescue workers on hand broke into rounds of applause as the first group—three young women—left the dank underground cave. They were immediately followed by the remaining five men. All appeared wobbly, covered with mud but still wearing their cavers' helmets, as they were helped out by rescue workers. The eight also were smiling and some shed tears when they reached the surface, shortly before sunset. *AP*

2 UK women jailed in UAE

RAS AL-KHAIMAH, United Arab Emirates—An Islamic court on Sunday jailed two British women for life for drug trafficking and sentenced a Londoner to spend 10 years in prison in this conservative emirate. Anna Bartlett, 24, from Essex, and Anne Kidd, 32, of Leeds, wearing black headscarves and traditional long black robes were also each ordered to pay a 50,000-dirham fine ($13,600 USD) by the court in Ras Al-Khaimah, part of the United Arab Emirates. Life usually means 25 years in the emirate where they were tried under Islamic Sharia law. *AFP*

14 killed in Yemen blast

SAN'A, Yemen—An explosion in a rural weapons market killed at least 14 people and injured 15 on Saturday, reporters on the scene said. Hospital officials said the death toll could be as high as 32. The explosion occurred about 2 p.m. in the remote village of al-Suwaida, about 200 kilometers southeast of the capital, San'a, said Walid al-Saqqaf, editor-in-chief of the weekly Yemen Times, which had reporters on the scene. A security official quoted by the Saba news agency said the blast occurred in a building where dynamite was stored. Guns, gunpowder and other explosives are sold freely at markets in Yemen, a largely tribal society where weapons are carried openly. *AP*

Polygamist faces jail time

SALT LAKE CITY—A day after becoming the first Utah man convicted of bigamy in nearly 50 years, Tom Green said he has no plans to abandon his polygamist lifestyle—even if he ends up in prison. "All that we've been able to plan is to continue doing what we do," Green said Saturday as he sat in his mother's living room, surrounded by his five wives and four of his 29 children. "My family will carry on without me." Green was found guilty late Friday of four counts of bigamy and one count of failure to pay child support. Next month he could be sentenced to up to 25 years. Green's wives, who range in age from 24 to 31, say they've missed Green as his legal battle dragged on over the last year. *AP*

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   - Winner's I.D.
   - An authorization letter from the winner
   - Registered mail sent by CGPSC.
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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

Comelec stops Masbate canvassing

THE COMMISSION on Elections on Saturday morning suspended the canvassing of votes in Masbate province after an election canvasser went into hiding in the face of death threats.

A recess was declared after provincial prosecutor Hermenegildo Betonio Jr. resigned as vice chair of the provincial board of canvassers and made himself inaccessible.

A source said he was informed by Betonio that he went into hiding after alleged henchmen of reelectionist Gov. Antonio Kho placed his house under surveillance on Friday.

Betonio was also quoted by the source as saying that one of his subordinates at the Department of Justice, Joseph Logronio, also resigned as provincial tabulator of votes.

Kho's henchmen allegedly forced Logronio to yield the keys to the boxes containing certificates of canvass (COCs) from the municipalities, the source added.

One of the henchmen later chased Logronio when he was spotted at a beer house in Masbate City. Logronio, however, eluded the group.

Betonio, according to the source, resigned from the board of canvassers to protest alleged irregularities.

"He expressed belief that there was a plot to tinker with the COCs because canvassing was frequently suspended for long hours by the Comelec provincial office although COCs have been forwarded to the board by the municipal board of canvassers," the source said.

"I cannot dignify the electoral fraud committed by no less than the Comelec," he was quoted by the source as saying.

Newsman Jun Alegre, an aspirant for a provincial board seat, on Friday night sought the help of journalists based in Masbate City to expose attempts to derail the canvassing of votes at the provincial capitol.

Vigil

Alegre said he and his companions had already asked for help from Bishop Baylon of Masbate, while they held vigil Friday night.

The vigil was led by the three incumbent congressmen of the province—Vida Espinosa, Emilio Espinosa Jr. and Fausto Seachon Jr.

Alegre said that up to Saturday morning, the Comelec had not started canvassing even at the municipal level. Worse, he said, the Comelec had not allowed any poll watcher to witness the proceedings.

Comelec provincial election supervisor Mohamad Hassan said canvassing had been slow because the votes garnered by more than 60 party-list groups had to be tallied.

Orlando Danao, the candidate of the dominant Espinosa clan against Kho, complained of fraud following a 10-hour blackout Saturday that affected the capitol, the venue of the canvassing.

Also on Saturday, hundreds of followers of Seachon from Masbate's third district trooped to the capitol after word spread that Kho's wife Elisa would win although she was lagging behind based on partial, unofficial returns.

Mayoral bet nabbed

Police arrested a mayoral candidate in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, and his two brothers on Saturday for their alleged roles in a ballot box snatching incident in the town on May 15.

A policeman was killed during the incident.

Arrested were businessman Orlando Manera, a defeated mayoral candidate in Sta. Ana, and his brothers, Dominador and Jose.

Manera lost to reelectionist Mayor Norberto Victor Rodriguez.

Armed with a search warrant, policemen seized from Manera's house a homemade gun, a 9-mm pistol and one of the four ballot boxes taken from the precincts in Barangay Casambalangan.

In the house of Dominador Manera in Sitio Ipil in Casambalangan, police seized a baby Armalite rifle, an M-16 rifle, a shotgun and bullets.

Reports said Edna Tacazon, election officer of Sta. Ana, identified the ballot box recovered from Manera as one of the four boxes taken from Precincts 42-A and 44-A at the Casambalangan Elementary School at about 3 a.m. on Tuesday.

Policemen earlier recovered the three ballot boxes, with the ballots and other election documents inside still intact.

Police officials said Manera and his brothers would be subjected to paraffin tests.

The guns recovered from them would be submitted for ballistics test to determine if these were used in the ballot box snatching incident.

Volunteers hurt

SPO2 Gerardo Calaycay, a member of the Philippine National Police's Maritime Group and detailed as security officer at the polling places in Casambalangan, was killed during the incident.

Two poll volunteers, Zenie Gacutan and Leila Liu, were wounded.

The attackers, who were armed with Armalite rifles and who wore bonnets, took the four ballot boxes and fled to different directions.

Reports said that while the counting of votes was going on at the Casambalangan Elementary School, unidentified men stoned the school building.

This prompted the members of the board of election inspectors to call Calaycay and his companion, PO1 Danilo Ziuagan, who were assigned to guard the BEI members and poll watchers in the village.

Upon reaching the school building, power supply was suddenly cut off and the intruders fired at the policemen. Calaycay died instantly while Ziuagan was not hurt.

Policemen recovered seven empty M-16 shells at the crime scene.

Toledo City

The election returns from Toledo City were transferred to the Commission on Election regional office in Cebu City after armed men stormed the city's Session Hall where the counting was held on Friday.

Provincial election officer Manuel Advincula said the canvassing would be held at the Comelec regional office, which he described as a "neutral ground."

More than 40 Scout Rangers and policemen were guarding the regional office to prevent any untoward incident.

The armed goons were allegedly hired by mayoral candidate Ricardo Rafols (Promdi).

Rafols' sister, Riza, allegedly tore some of the election returns, said Supt. Agustin Lloveras, Toledo police chief.

But the Rafols siblings denied the allegation, saying they had no reason to destroy the returns because these could prove that they were cheated.

Riza said she was with her brothers' supporters who were camping out at the plaza when the incident occurred.

But Lloveras said charges would be filed against the Rafols siblings, including some of their supporters who took part in the attack. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; Floreño Solmirano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

No hitches in Abra special polls

BAGUIO CITY—Reports of armed harassment, missing ballots, and protests covering Abra, Apayao and Baguio City rounded up this year's elections in the Cordillera, officials of the Commission on Elections here said on Saturday.

Lawyer Armando Velasco, Comelec regional director, said police arrested an armed man who was frequenting polling precincts in Tineg, Abra, while carrying a firearm during the special elections there on Saturday.

Reports of harassment in Apayao and a protest rally by some 100 "disenfranchised voters" at the Baguio Convention Center where the Baguio canvassing had taken place, were received by the Comelec at the close of election week here, Velasco told reporters

Velasco said the special elections for Tineg "relatively run smoothly."

The elections in the remote town of Tineg were rescheduled for Saturday after Comelec personnel and policemen failed to deliver election materials there on May 13 and 14 due to bad weather.

Velasco said 15 precincts there opened at 7 a.m. and closed at 3 p.m. Ballot boxes and other election documents in Tineg's precincts were immediately flown to the capital town of Bangued for canvassing, he said.

The special elections were marred only by the arrest of an unidentified man who was discovered monitoring the precincts armed with an automatic rifle.

Velasco said he was advised about the arrest only through text messaging and had called that report as "raw."

Comelec officials, however, were monitoring the movements of a faction of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) on Saturday after one of their leaders lost in the Apayao gubernatorial race

Robert Angco, a CPLA faction leader, had been trailing in the gubernatorial race based on unofficial reports from the National Movement for Free Elections.

Mailed Molina, another CPLA leader, reclaimed the mayoral post of Bucloc, Abra.

A Comelec source said reports of harassment, which the Comelec are also classifying as "raw," had been reported in Apayao on Friday but had not pointed out any specific suspect at press time.

Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, Cordillera police director, said the police were primarily interested in the activities of communist rebels near the border towns of Mt. Province, Ifugao and Kalinga, and had classified the different CPLA factions as "friendly forces."

But Gil admitted that he had shifted his attention back to the CPLA after the elections.

Velasco said he had also been watching Angco's progress because he was able to run this year despite being an unregistered voter.

"The certificates of candidacy were received because Comelec's function is purely ministerial. We cannot choose the candidates. But a requirement for running for a government post is that you must be a registered voter yourself. Angco is not. If he wins, he will be disqualified anyway," Velasco said. *Vincent Cabreza and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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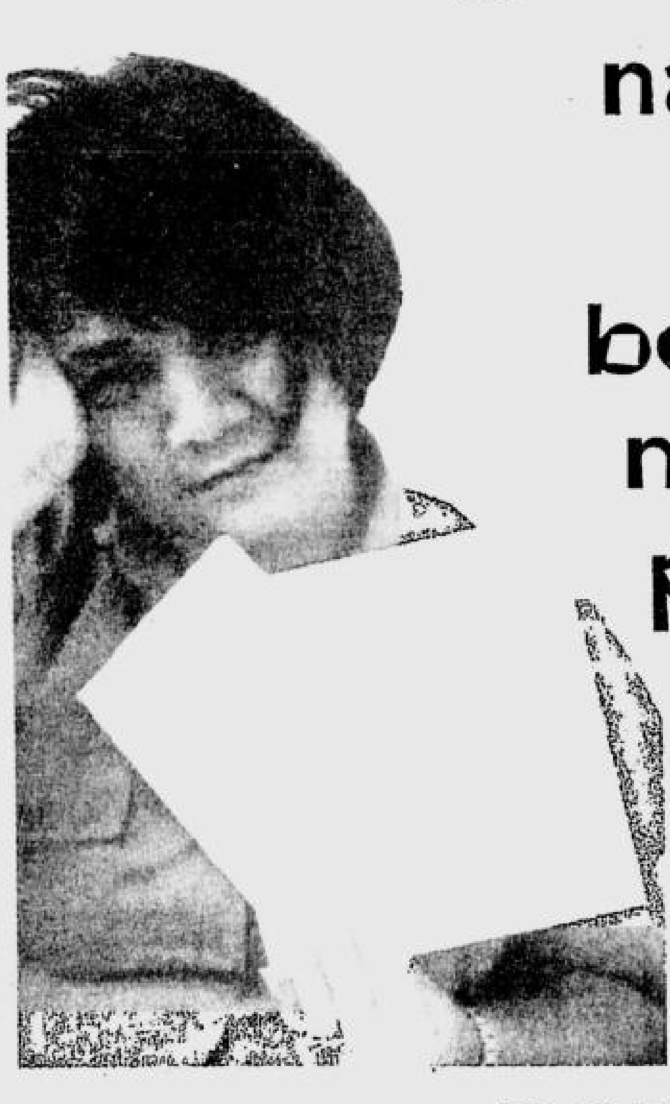

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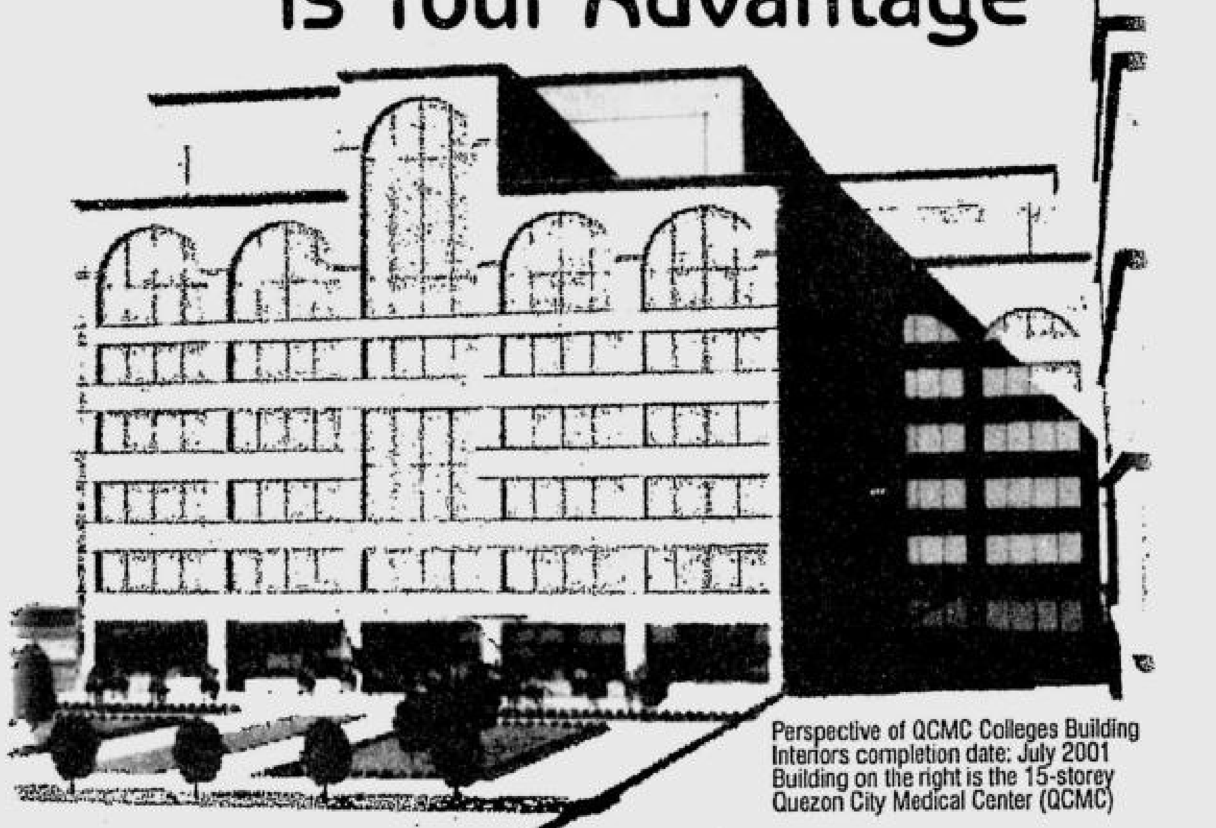

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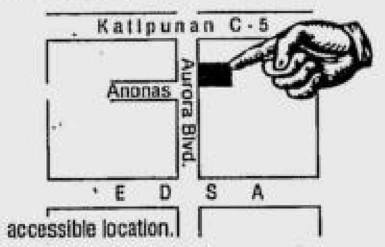

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ATO rules out foul play in chopper crash

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—"No substantial evidence to conclude foul play."

Air Transportation Office (ATO) Assistant Secretary Adelberto Yap yesterday gave this response to Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes after an ATO team went to the site where two helicopters crashed Friday at Sitio Mamuga, Barangay Manalo here.

Reyes told radio RGMA-Palawan that he was informed by Yap about the results of the team's investigation.

An official of Jaka Transport Co., owner of the ill-fated helicopter earlier discounted pilot error as the cause of the accident.

Jaka assistant operations manager Ernesto del Rosario claimed that Capt. Rene Marukot, who flew the ill-fated PR-C-2345 Bell 407 helicopter, was one of the company's best pilots.

Del Rosario said the co-pilot, Rodolfo Jastiva, of Coron, Palawan, was a top-ranking flight mechanic of the company.

Four other passengers, including Lualhati Reyes, mother of Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, died in the crash.

Reyes' remains were transferred yesterday from the Reyes home in Barangay Sta. Monica here to Coron, her hometown.

Rumors have been circulating in the province that the accident was the result of a sabotage planned by the governor's political rivals.

Del Rosario said Jastiva was always aboard the Bell chopper wherever it went, especially in long flights.

He assured the families of the victims of assistance and benefits.

Del Rosario said the ill-fated Bell 407 was one of the company's newest in its fleet of helicopters. It was bought from Bell Helicopters Co. in 1997 and had flown a total of only about 2,000 hours, he added.

Seven members of the Air Force rescue team also died when their S-76 Sikorsky helicopter crashed four hours after the first incident.

The rescuers and the helicopter belonged to the 505th Rescue Squadron of the Philippine Air Force. They went to the crash site to retrieve the passengers of the Jaka helicopter.

The Sikorsky crashed about 600 meters from the site of the first crash.

Witnesses said that about 7:50 p.m., Friday, just a few seconds after it took off near the crash site, the S-76 suddenly dived and crashed, killing all its passengers.

Some Davao-based pilots told the INQUIRER, however, that they were wondering why the Air Force chopper had to fly at that time when it was already dangerous.

After the two successive crashes, a team from the National Bureau of Investigation, Philippine National Police and the PAF immediately went to the crash site to secure the area and determine the real causes of the twin accidents.

Jaka also sent its own team to the crash site to conduct its own probe. *Jofelle Tesorio and Geraldford Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 34° Lo 25°	Baguio HI 25° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 34° Lo 23°	Laoag HI 33° Lo 26°
Clark Zone HI 33° Lo 24°	Tagaytay HI 31° Lo 22°	Legazpi HI 33° Lo 26°	Calapan HI 34° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 33° Lo 25°	Roxas HI 33° Lo 25°	Cebu HI 34° Lo 25°	Tacloban HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 32° Lo 24°	Zamboanga HI 31° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 32° Lo 24°	Davao HI 31° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

PDI BUREAUS

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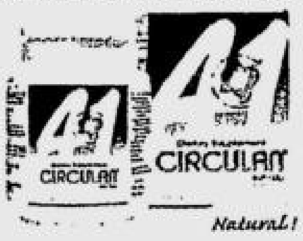

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Who's winning, who's losing in the provinces

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

ABRA (proclaimed)
Lone District
Luis Bersamin Jr. (PDSP)
Governor
Vicente Valera (PDSP-PPC)

APAYAO

Lone District	
Elias Bulut Jr. (NPC)	2,351
Noble Perez (Lakas-NUCD)	1,621
Governor	
Elias Bulut Sr. (NPC)	2,351
Ambaro Sagle (Reporma-LM)	731

BENGUET (proclaimed)
Lone District
Samuel Dangwa (Reporma)
Governor
Raul Molintas (NPC)

BAGUIO CITY (proclaimed)
Lone District:
Mauricio Domogan (Lakas)

IFUGAO (proclaimed)
Lone District
Solomon Chungalao (LP)
Governor
Teodoro Baguilat Jr.

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE (proclaimed)
Lone district
Roy Pilando (LDP-NPC-LP)
Governor
Sario Malinias (NPC)

CAGAYAN VALLEY

BATANES (proclaimed)
Lone district
Florencio Abad (LP)
Governor
Vicente Gato

CAGAYAN (proclaimed)
District 1
Juan Ponce Enrile Jr. (Ind.)
District 2
Celia Layus (NPC)
District 3
Manuel Mamba (Lakas-NUCD)
Governor
Edgar Lara

ISABELA

District 1 (proclaimed)	
Rodolfo Albano Sr.	
District 2 (proclaimed)	
Edwin Uy	
District 3 (proclaimed)	
Faustino Dy III	
District 4	
(Comelec: 385 precincts)	
Antonio Abaya	25,160
Giorgigi Aggabao	20,458
Governor (proclaimed)	
Faustino Dy Jr.	

NUEVA VIZCAYA (proclaimed)
Lone District
Carlos Padilla (LDP)
Governor
Rodolfo Agbayani (NPC)

QUIRINO (proclaimed)
Lone district
Junie Cua (LP)
Governor
Pedro Bacani (LDP)

ILOCOS REGION

ILOCOS NORTE (proclaimed)
District 1
Roque Ablan Jr. (Lakas-NUCD)
District 2
Imee Marcos (KBL)
Governor
Ferdinand Marcos Jr. (KBL)

ILOCOS SUR (proclaimed)
District 1
Salacnib Baterina (Lakas-NUCD)
District 2
Eric Singson (LP)
Governor
Deogracias Victor S. (Bileg-Lakas)

PANGASINAN (proclaimed)
District 1
Arthur Celeste (Ind.)
District 2
Amado Espino Jr.(Lakas-NUCD)
District 3
Generoso, Tulagan
District 4 (
Jose de Venecia (Lakas)
District 5
Marcos Cojuangco (NPC)
District 6
Conrado Estrella III (NPC)
Governor
Victor Agbayani (Lakas-NUCD)

LA UNION (proclaimed)
District 1
Manuel Ortega (NPC)
District 2
Tomas Dumpit Sr. (NPC)
Governor
Victor Ortega (Lakas-NUCD)

CENTRAL LUZON

PAMPANGA

District 1 (proclaimed)	
Francis Nepomuceno (NPC)	
District 2 (proclaimed)	
Zenaida Cruz-Ducut (NPC)	
District 3	
(Comelec)	
Oscar Rodriguez (Lakas)	62,560
Rosve Henson (NPC)	28,411
District 4 (proclaimed)	
Juan Pablo Bondoc (NPC)	
Governor	
Manuel Lapid (Lakas)	343,947
Ananias Canlas Jr. (Buklod)	29,678

TARLAC (proclaimed)
District 1
Gilberto Teodoro Jr. (NPC)
District 2
Benigno Aquino III (LP)
District 3
Jesli Lapus (NPC)
Governor
Jose Yap (NPC)

ZAMBALES (proclaimed)
District 1
James Gordon Jr. (Lakas-NP)
District 2
Ruben Torres (Ind.)
Governor
Vicente Magsaysay (Lakas-NUCD)

BATAAN (proclaimed)
District 1
Antonino Romas (Ind.)
District 2
Enrique Garcia Jr. (LDP)
Governor
Leonardo Roman (NPC)

NUEVA ECIJA

District 1 (proclaimed)	
Josefina Joson	
District 2	
(Comelec: 5 of 8 towns)	
Eleuterio Violago (Lakas)	36,580
Simeon Garcia Jr. (Balane)	25,604
District 3 (proclaimed)	
Aurelio Umali	
District 4	
(Comelec: 5 of 8 towns)	
Raul Villareal	52,957
Gregorio Manuel	21,551
Governor	
(Comelec: 21 towns)	
Tomas Joson III (Balane)	230,367
Pacifico Fajardo (Lakas)	105,829

BULACAN

(Comelec: As of May 20)	
District 1	
Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado (Lakas)	74,656
Raul Ople (LDP)	41,313
District 2 (proclaimed)	
Wilfrido Villarama (Aksyon)	
District 3 (proclaimed)	
Lorna Silverio (Lakas)	
District 4	
(Comelec: As of May 18)	
Evangelina Sarmiento (Lakas)	2,504
Reylina Nicolas (Lakas)	11,500
Governor	
(Comelec: As of May 20)	
Josefina de la Cruz (Lakas)	459,974
Luz Parungao-Viado (PMP)	27,228

BICOL

SORSOGON

District 1	
Escudero, Francis G. (NPC)	39,139
Gohol, Gil S. (Lakas-NUCD)	13,335
District 2	
Gonzales, Rodolfo F. (Lakas)	35,146
Solis, Jose G. (Ind.)	35,299
Governor	
Lee, Raul (LDP)	101,117
Guab, Romeo (Lakas)	47,101

CAMARINES SUR

(Comelec: As of 3:15 p.m., May 19)	
District 1	
Andaya, Rolando Jr. G. (Lakas)	68,703
Genova, Roberto U. (LDP)	30,178
District 2	
Roco, Sulpicio Jr. S. (Aksyon)	52,147
San Buenaventura, L. E. (L)	23,369
Villafuerte, Mariano Jose (LDP)	38,142
District 3	
Fuentebella, Felix W. (NPC)	54,347
Pilapil, Eduardo P. (LDP)	35,383
District 4	
Alfelor, Felix (Lakas-NUCD)	29,383
Fortuno, Salvio B. (LDP)	34,646
Governor	
(Excludes Iriga City and Buhi)	
Villafuerte, Luis R. (LDP)	270,719
Villamayor, Nora C. (Lakas)	65,352

CAMARINES NORTE

Lone District	
Unico, Renato Jr. (Lakas)	53,141
Panotes, Elmer (Aksyon)	39,376
Governor	
Typoco, Jesus Jr. (Lakas)	60,750
Pimentel, Emmanuel (LDP)	46,465

CATANDUANES

Lone District	
Santiago, Joseph (NPC)	33,387
Verceles, Nathalie (Lakas)	28,878
Governor	
Sanchez, Hector (Aksyon)	25,362
Verceles, Leandro (Ind.)	37,084

MASBATE

District 1	
Espinosa, Vida (NPC)	19,722
Ejercito, Jennifer (PMP)	14,417
District 2	
Espinosa, Emilio Jr. (INA-NPC)	26,555
Estrella, Raul (Reporma)	14,053
District 3	
Seachon, Fausto Jr. (NPC-INA)	31,120
Kho Elisa (Reporma)	23,019
Governor	
Danao, Orlando (Lakas)	75,149
Kho, Antonio (Reporma)	91,659

ALBAY

District 1	
Karie, Ana Marie T. (Aksyon)	28,591
Lagman-Luistro, Krisel B. (L)	67,930
District 2	
Imperial, Carlos D. R. (NPC)	52,335
Roces, Imelda C. (Lakas)	36,765
District 3	
Salceda, Jose Ma. S. (Lakas)	86,324
Governor	
Bichara, Al Francis (Lakas)	187,352
Salalima, Romeo R. (Kampi)	113,244

MARINDUQUE

Lone district	
Reyes, Edmundo Jr.(Lakas)	36,875
Red, Jovito W. (PDP-Laban)	3,467
Governor	
Reyes, Carmencita (Lakas)	27,398
Carreon, Bong (Ind.)	17,288

SOUTHERN TAGALOG

BATANGAS

(Namfrel. As of 2 p.m., May 19)	
District 1	
Ermita-Buhain, Elenita R.(L)	86,205
Apacible, Rosario M. (LDP)	65,920
District 2	
Perez, Francisco II S. (Lakas)	60,941
Mendoza, Edgar L. (LDP)	50,707
Sulit, Edwin P. (Ind.)	15,793
District 3	
Laurel, Jose Macario (Lakas)	37,367
Reyes, Victoria H. (Reporma)	38,586
District 4	
Gozos, Oscar L. (Lakas)	84,132
Sabili, Meynardo A. (Reporma)	54,714
Recto, Richard G. (Lakas)	16,164
Umali, Ruben L. (NPC)	35,345
Governor	
Mandanas, Hermilando (R)	521,142
Vicente Platon (PPC)	84,079

CAVITE

District 1	
Abaya, Plaridel M. (LP)	59,108
Guerrero, Leonardo L. (Lakas)	10,159
District 2	
Dragon, Renato (Ind -Magdalo)	29,763
Remulla, Gilbert (Magdalo)	102,269
Velasco, Epimaco A. (Lakas)	75,934
District 3	
Panlilio, Jose Marcel E. (Lakas)	24,404
Beratio, Napoleon R. (PM)	57,420
Beltran, Raymundo N. (Kampi)	24,142
Governor	
Maliksi, Erineo S. (PM)	370,004
Revilla, Ramon Jr. B. (Lakas)	271,245

LAGUNA

(Namfrel: 957 of 5,114 precincts)	
District 1	
Anas, Arturo A. (Lakas-NUCD)	12,490
Joaquin, Uliran T. (NPC)	91,249
District 2	
Chipeco, Joaquin (Kampi)	104,841
Tingzon, Rodolfo R. (Lakas)	39,367
District 3	
Amante, Vicente B. (Lakas)	8,625
Bueser, Danton Q. (LP)	18,757
District 4	
San Luis, Rodolfo S. (LDP)	16,102
Governor	
(Comelec. As of 12 noon, May 18)	
Lina, Alberto D. (Kampi)	127,290
Lazaro, Teresita S. (PMP)	193,945

ORIENTAL MINDORO

(Namfrel: 81 precincts)	
District 1	
Leviste, Charity P. (Lakas)	61,728
Manzo, Dante A.	41,482
District 2	
Andaya, Manuel D.G. (Lakas)	26,603
Punzalan, Jesus M. (Lakas)	28,643
Umali, Alfonso Jr. V. (LP)	30,317
Governor	
(Comelec: final, unofficial)	
Marasigan, Bartolome Sr.(L)	113,406
Valencia, Chalie P. (LP)	92,585

QUEZON

District 1	
Devanadera, Agnes S. (Lakas)	13,138
Nantes, Rafael P. (LP)	37,490
District 2	
Punzalan, Lynnette A.	46,677
Escueta, Eduardo Pio U. (LDP)	23,424
District 3	
Suarez, Aleta Catarina (LP)	3,604
Ojeda, Joselito A. (Lakas)	1,652
District 4	
Yumul Georgilu (PMP)	14,350
Tanada, Lorenzo III R. (LP)	12,498
Governor	
Enverga, Wilfrido L. (Reporma)	96,352
Rodriguez, Eduardo T. (Lakas)	66,473

PALAWAN

District 1	
Sandoval, Vicente (Lakas)	29,803
Acosta, Andrei (Ind.)	410
District 2	
Mitra, Abraham (Lakas)	33,743
Demaala, Clarito Jr. (LDP)	15,229
Pena, Teodoro (PDP-Laban)	14,939
Governor	
Reyes, Joel (Lakas)	105,838
Hagedorn, Edward (NPC)	73,318

WESTERN VISAYAS

AKLAN (proclaimed)
Lone District
Gabrielle Calizo (LDP)
Governor
Florencio Miraflores (LDP)

ANTIQUE (proclaimed)
Lone District
Exequiel Javier (Lakas)
Governor
Sally Perez-Zaldevar (LDP)

CAPIZ (proclaimed)
District 1
Rodrigues Dadivas (LP)
District 2
Fredenil Castrol (LP)
Governor
Vicente Bermejo (LP)

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL (proclaimed)

District 1	
Julio Ledesma IV (UNA)	3
District 2	
Alfredo Marañon (NPC-UNA)	
District 3	
Jose Carlos Lacson (UNA)	
District 4 (proclaimed)	
Carlos Cojuanco (UNA)	
District 5	
Jose Apolinario (Lakas)	
District 6	
Genaro Alvarez (NPC)	
Governor	
Joseph Marañon (UNA)	

BACOLOD CITY

Lone District	
(Comelec: 1,049 of 1,209 precincts, 86.7%)	
Monico Puentebella (Lakas)	44,492
John Orola (NPC-UNA)	40,191

ILOILO

District 1	
(Comelec: 7 of 7 towns)	
Proclamation suspended	
Oscar Garin (NPC)	63,496
Jaime Torres (Lakas NUCD)	59,846
District 2 (proclaimed)	
Agusto Syjuco (LDP)	
District 3 (proclaimed)	
Arthur Defensor (Lakas)	
District 4 (proclaimed)	
Narciso Monfort (Lakas)	
District 5 (proclaimed)	
Rolex Suplico (LDP)	
Governor	
(Comelec: 41 of 42 towns, 1 city)	
Niel Tupas (LDP)	304,231
Demy Sonza (Lakas)	228,083

ILOILO CITY
Lone District (proclaimed)
Raul Gonzalez (Lakas)

GUIMARAS

(Comelec 249 of 364 precincts, 68.4%)	
Lone District	
Edgar Espinosa (Lakas)	14,863
Vicente de Asis (LDP)	12,150
Governor	
Rahman Nava (LDP)	24,207
Gerry Yucon (Lakas)	8,8P

CENTRAL VISAYAS

CEBU

District 1	
(Comelec. 4 of five towns and one city)	
Jose Gullas (Alayon)	39,739
Napoleon Rama Jr. (Promdi)	31,195
District 2 (proclaimed)	
Simeon Kintanar (Alayon)	
District 3	
(Comelec: 6 of 6 towns and one city)	
Antonio Yapha Jr. (Alayon)	45,215
Jose Soberano III (Promdi)	29,999
District 4	
(Comelec: 6 of 9 towns)	
Clavel Asas-Martinez (Promdi)	50,617
Doroteo Salazar (Alayon)	11,294
District 5	
(Comelec: 9 of 10 towns and one city)	
Joseph Felix Durano (Alayon)	59,688
District 6	
(Comelec: 2 of 2 towns and 2 cities)	
Nerissa Soon-Ruiz (Alayon)	18,047
Elren Herrera (Promdi)	12,321
Governor	
(Comelec: 44 of 47 towns and 5 cities)	
Pablo Garcia (Promdi)	277,648
Fernando Celeste (Alayon)	254,998

CEBU CITY

(Comelec: 315 of 1,985 precincts or 15 86%)	
North District	
Raul Del Mar (Promdi-PPC)	7,611
Florencio Villarin (Ind.)	965
South District	
Antonio Cuenco (Promdi)	11,675
Aristotle Batuhan (Alayon)	10,705
Mayor	
Tomas Osmeña (BOPK-PPC)	18,525
Alvin Garcia (Kusog)	18,356

NEGROS ORIENTAL (proclaimed)
District 1
Jacinto Paras (Lakas-PPC)
District 2
Emilio Macias (NPC)
District 3
Herminio Teves (Lakas-PPC)
Governor
George Arnaiz (NPC)

SIQUIJOR (proclaimed)
Lone District
Orlando Fua, Jr. (Lakas)
Governor
Orlando Fua Sr. (Lakas NUCD)

BOHOL (proclaimed)
District 1
Edgar Chatto (PDP)
District 2
Roberto Cajes (Lakas)
District 3
Eladio Jala (PDP)
Governor
Erico Aumentado (Lakas)

EASTERN VISAYAS

LEYTE

District 1	
(Comelec: 7 of 7 towns and 1 city)	
Ted Failon (Ind.)	55,758
Alfred Romualdez (NPC-KBL)	50,736
District 2 (proclaimed)	
Trinidad Apostol(Lakas-NUCD)	
District 3 (proclaimed)	
Edward Veloso (NPC-KBL)	
District 4	
(Comelec: 5 of 6 towns, 1 city)	
Eufrocino Codilla Sr.	34,275
Victoria Larrazabal-Locsin	28,066
District 5	
(Comelec: 8 of 9 towns)	
Enberto Veloso Loreto (LDP)	32,415
Carmen Loreto Cari (Lakas)	29,823
Governor	
Comelec: 39 of 41 towns and 1 city)	
Remedios Petilla (Lakas)	246,977
Catalina Loreto-GO (LDP)	137,747

TACLOBAN CITY

Mayor (suspended canvassing)	
(Namfrel: 400 of 444 precincts or 90%)	
Alfredo Romualdez	26,625
Mimiette Bagulava	11,300

EASTERN SAMAR

Lone District (proclaimed)	
Marcelino Libanan (NPC)	
Governor	
Clotilde Salazar (NPC)	41,229
Jose Ramirez (Lakas)	39,608
Ruperto Ambil (LDP)	33,257

NORTHERN SAMAR

(suspended canvassing)	
District 1	
(Namfrel· 436 of 1,336 precincts)	
Harlin Abayon (LP)	38,875
Teodoro Jumamil (Lakas)	22,217
District 2	
Romualdo Vicencio(Lakas)	19,950
Jose Ong (Lakas-Ind.)	13,318
Governor	
Raul Daza (LP)	65,128
Madeleine Ong (Lakas)	40,220

SOUTHERN LEYTE

Lone District (final)	
Anecito Saludo (Lakas)	65,777
Robert Castañares (NPC)	57,577
Governor	
Rosette Lerias (NPC)	67,453
Roger Mercado (Lakas)	65,614

BILIRAN (proclaimed)
Lone District
Gerardo Espina Sr. (B. Espina)
Governor
Rogelio Espina (Bando Espina)

MINDANAO

AGUSAN DEL NORTE (proclaimed)
District 1
Leovigildo Banaag (Lakas-NUCD)
District 2
Amante, Edelmiro (Lakas)
Governor
Amante, Angelica (Lakas)

AGUSAN DEL SUR (proclaimed)
Lone District
Plaza, Rodolfo (LDP-PnM)
Governor
Plaza, Adolph Edward (LDP)

BUKIDNON (proclaimed)
District 1
Acosta, Nereus (LP)
District 2
Anchela, Berthobal (Lakas)
District 3
Zubiri, Juan Miguel (Lakas)
Governor
Zubiri, Jose (Lakas-NUCD)

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

(Namfrel: As of May 18)	
Lone district	
Jaraula, Constantino (PnM)	54,591
Damasing, Erasmo (Lakas)	39,223

COMPOSTELA VALLEY

District 1	
Garcia, Florante (Reporma)	29,297
Zamora, Manuel (Lakas)	33,290
District 2	
Amatong, Prospero (Lakas)	37,698
Uy, Arturo (Reporma)	36,398
Governor (proclaimed)	
Cabellero, Jose (Reporma)	

DAVAO CITY

(Namfrel: 2,848 of 3,055 precincts, 89%)	
District 1	
Nograles, Prospero (Lakas)	84,190
Avisado, Wendell (PDP)	42,894
District 2	
Garcia, Vicente (NPC)	24,291
Alterado, Sinforiano (PMP)	21,412
Nograles, Gerardo (Kampi)	18,967
Aportadera, Abellardo (Rep.)	12,156
Orcullo, Nenita (PDP)	14,557
Bian, Joji (Lakas-Aksyon)	9,953
District 3	
Lopez, Ruy Elias (NPC)	46,514
Rodriguez, Sonja (Ind.)	13,678
Dolor, Allan (LDP)	12,124
Lopez, Jose (Ind.)	5,937

DAVAO DEL SUR (proclaimed)
District 1
Cagas, Douglas (NPC)
District 3
Bautista, Claude (NPC)
Governor
Llanos, Reynerio (NPC)

DAVAO DEL NORTE

(Namfrel: As of 8 a.m.)	
District 1	
Lemos, Meliton (Reporma)	14,642
Olano, Arel (Lakas)	15,944
Sator, Baltazar (PDSP)	14,620
District 2 (proclaimed)	
Antonio Floirendo (Lakas)	
Governor (proclaimed)	
Del Rosario, Rodolfo (Lakas)	

DAVAO ORIENTAL (proclaimed)
District 1
Malanyaon, Corazon (NPC)
District 2
Almario, Joel Mayo (Lakas)
Governor
Palma Gil, Ma. Elena (Lakas)

MISAMIS ORIENTAL

(Comelec: 19 of 24 towns)	
District 1	
Moreno, Oscar (Lakas-NUCD)	24,416
Ursal, Allan (LDP)	10,880
District 2	
Baculio, Augusto (LDP)	25,815
Chaves, Victorico (Lakas)	12,830
Governor	
Calingin, Antonio (LDP)	45,801
Lagbas, Danilo (Lakas-NUCD)	35,332

CAMIGUIN (proclaimed)
Lone District
Romualdo, Pedro J. (NPC)
Governor
Romualdo Pedro (Lakas)

NORTH COTABATO

(Namfrel: 18 towns)	
District 1	
Diaz, Rosario (Lakas-NUCD)	12,288
Talino-Santos, Emmylou (Ind.)	38,544
District 2	
Ipong, Gregorio (NPC)	44,562
Andolana, Gregorio (Lakas)	15,714
Baynosa, Freddie (Lihok)	13,342
Governor (proclaimed)	
Pinol. Emmanuel (Lihok)	

SOUTH COTABATO (proclaimed)
District 1 (Gen. Santos City)
Antonino-Custodio, D. (NPC)
District 2
Pingoy, Arthur (NPC)
Governor
Fuentes, Daisy (NPC)

SARANGANI (proclaimed)
Lone District
Chiongbian, Erwin (Lakas)
Governor
Escobar Miguel (Lakas)

SURIGAO DEL NORTE (proclaimed)
District 1
Glenda Ecleo (Lakas-NUCD-PPC)
District 2
Barbers, Robert Ace (Lakas)
Governor
Barbers, Robert Lyndon (Lakas)

ZAMBOANGA CITY

(Namfrel 922 precincts)	
Lone District	
Lobregat, Celso (LDP)	50,425
Arañez, Efren (Lakas-NUCD)	16,362
Climaco, Luis (PDP)	18,432

ZAMBOANGA-SIBUGAY (proclaimed)
Lone District
Belma Cabilao (Lakas)
Governor
George Hofer (Lakas)

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'Miss Gay' search hit

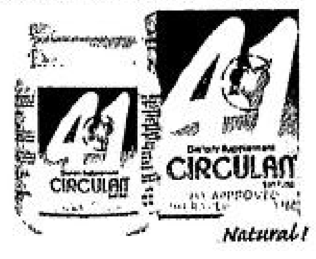
BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—A program not suited for the occasion.

That's how religious leaders described the planned search for Miss Gay as part of the celebration of Nueva Vizcaya's 162nd founding anniversary from May 19 to May 24.

Two evangelical pastors called the pageant "harmful to our community" and wanted it stopped. The pageant night is scheduled for May 24 as part of the culminating activities of the week-long celebration dubbed "Panagyaman," (an Ilocano term for thanksgiving).

Organizers, however, said the pageant would go on since preparations had been done and approved by the celebration executive committee.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



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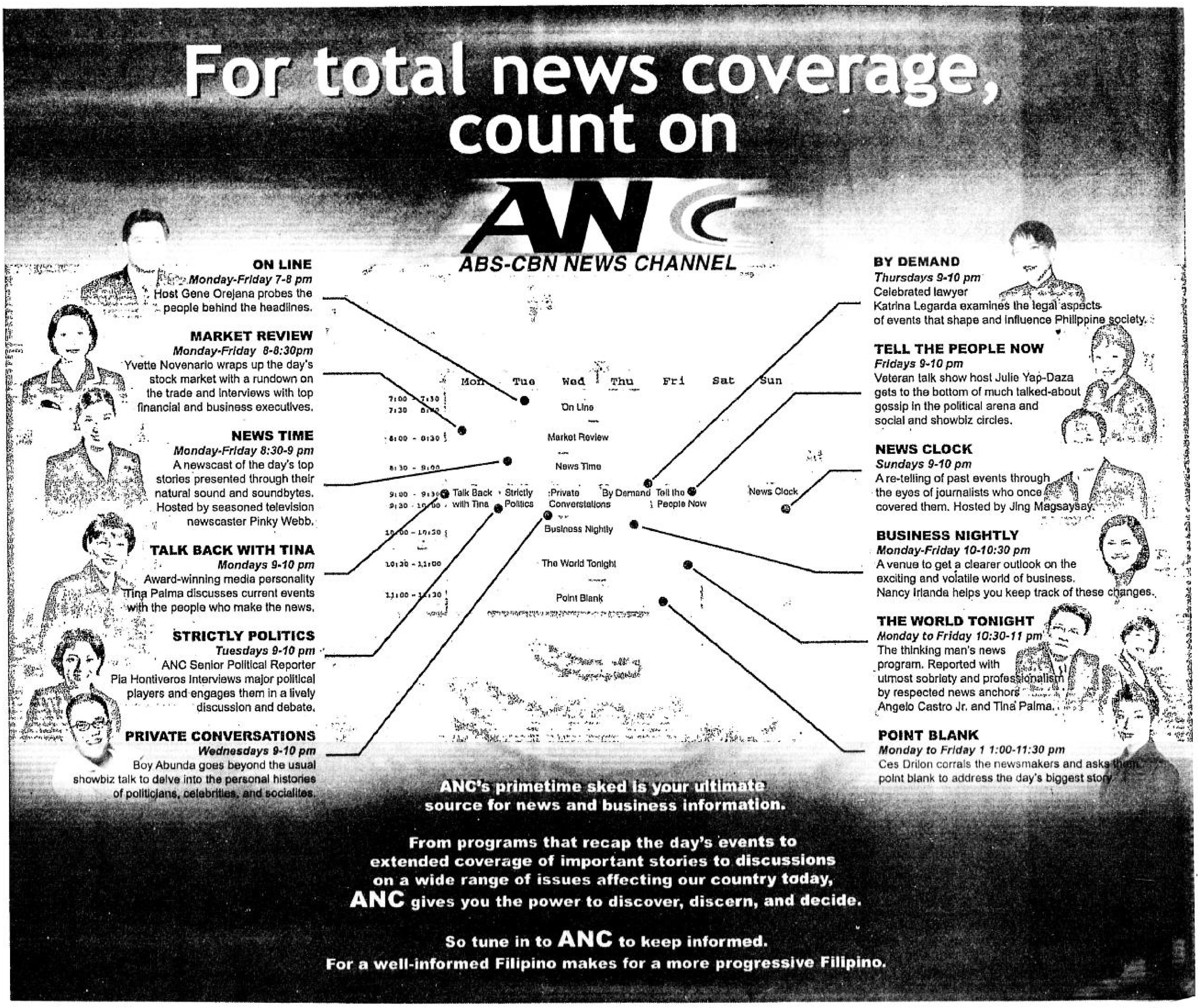

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GMA to build house for arrested leader

(From page A1)

quest to have him stay at the hospital for health considerations.

Asked what she promised Estrada during the visit, Ms Macapagal said: "I told him in the meantime, the government will construct one annex in the hospital that is fit for a former president so that he would be comfortable."

The annex would be inside "a small compound, with a house and a reception cottage" for his visitors, she said.

"I noticed he lost weight," Ms Macapagal said when asked about Estrada's condition.

The Sandiganbayan ordered the arrest of Estrada and his son in April after the Ombudsman filed charges of plunder against them. Plunder is a capital offense for which bail is not allowed.

Estrada and his son have denied any wrongdoing. Their trial is expected to start in June.

Reactions

Militant groups that backed Ms Macapagal's rise to power, however, criticized her on Sunday for acceding to Estrada's demand to be released into house arrest.

"It's unfair. It sends a wrong signal to those who worked hard for Estrada's ouster," said Teodoro Casiño, secretary general of Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

Casiño said Estrada should not be accorded special privileges to send a strong warning to would-be grafters in government.

With Estrada's many mansions, putting him under house arrest would allow him to have his luxurious lifestyle back instead of giving him due punishment for alleged graft, according to Casiño.

Detaining Estrada in his house also could lead to new protests by the former action star's followers, he said.

Mostly poor, Estrada's supporters protested his April 25 arrest for six days in what has been dubbed "Edsa Tres," and tried to storm Malacañang on May 1.

The military and police quelled the bloody riot that left six people dead and about a hundred others injured.

Estrada's lawyers

Raymund Fortun, one of Estrada's defense lawyers, hailed Ms Macapagal's gesture as "statesmanlike" and "a good step toward reconciliation."

Fortun said government prosecutors should take their cue from Ms Macapagal and drop their opposition to the defense motion to put Estrada under house arrest.

"What can the Sandiganbayan do if the prosecutors withdraw their opposition? It would be more inclined to grant our motion," he said.

Another defense lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, expressed hope that the prosecution "would not be insensitive to the developments yesterday."

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said the prosecution "has to heed the word of the President."

"If it has any strong objection, it has to convince the President," Tiglao added.

Even so, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said he would continue to oppose bail or house arrest.

"I understand that as head of state, President Macapagal-Arroyo wants an immediate reconciliation of all contending groups in society," Desierto said.

But he added: "We cannot be influenced by political considerations."

According to him, Philippine law only allows regular detention or bail, not "house detention."

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he would pose no objection to put Estrada under house arrest "only upon his assurance that he would not leave the country" while undergoing trial at the Sandiganbayan. ***With reports from Volt Contreras, Cathy C. Yamsuan, AFP and AP***

Bong, Ayong swap vote-buy raps

(From page A1)

buddy, days before May 14.

"I didn't see even a shadow of that P30 million," Maliksi said.

He said it was Revilla's camp which handed out money—to the tune of P300 million.

But the senior Revilla said Maliksi and former Cavite Gov. Juanito Remulla did not have the money to spend just to defeat Bong, who was seeking his third and last term.

The senator said Estrada, wedding sponsor of Bong and Lani, was getting back at his godson for his decision to leave Estrada before his downfall in January.

Vindictive

The senior Revilla said he was hurt by Estrada's vindictiveness. "I was not able to sleep for two nights," he said. "If not for them, Bong won't be defeated."

Bong admitted that his participation in Edsa II prompted Estrada to finance Maliksi's campaign.

"Everybody knows who will be happy when I lose. But what I did was for the country," Bong said.

He confirmed reports that from his detention cell in Laguna, Jinggoy called up some people to inquire about the results of the elections in Cavite.

"Yes, so maybe he's happy now that I am losing. But I have no regrets because I did what I did for the country," Bong said.

The senior Revilla said barangay chairs were given P20,000 each to ensure the victory of Maliksi and his fellow candidates of Partido Magdalo, the local party founded by Remulla.

He said teachers were paid P1,500 each to read out Maliksi instead of Revilla from the ballots and that even their own watchers were given P500.

Rio Ebuna, official Lakas-NUCD watcher and chair of the Magdiwang Youth Organization, showed the INQUIRER a brown pay envelope, which he said was proof of the vote buying operations in Barangay San Francisco in General Trias town.

Ebuna said the envelope contained P500 which was given to the teachers by leaders of the incumbent mayor. He said the teachers were given P1,500 in three installments.

The envelope bore the word "TEACHER" stamped in purple letters on the right side. On the upper left was the name of the teacher written by hand.

"During the May 15 rally (of Revilla's supporters) at the Malabon Plaza, the teacher approached us with evidence of the payoff," Ebuna said.

He said the teacher and other witnesses would eventually come out to prove the payoffs.

Leonardo Eugenio, 60, said voters were given P500 and a grocery bag from Castillo, the Bacoor mayor.

A barangay captain of Salinas in Bacoor was arrested for alleged vote buying.

The blotter of the Imus town police showed that Lakas-NUÇD watchers had complained against Rolando Angeles, of the Partido Magdalo, for handing out money to election volunteers at 10:30 a.m. on Election Day.

Dirtiest election

Bong said the money poured three days before the elections.

"This is the dirtiest election ever in Cavite. This was well planned. Even the Comelec (Commission on Elections is involved)," he said.

Maliksi said he knew of no Magdalo official caught for vote buying.

"In my whole life, I never engaged in buying votes," said Maliksi, who served as mayor of Imus before he got elected to the House of Representatives in 1998.

Castillo laughed off Revilla's allegations of vote buying. "Shouldn't we be the ones saying that?" he said.

"I have no idea of how much they spent but our votes from our bailiwicks were certainly reduced. And everybody knows that as early as Saturday (before the Monday elections), the province was already awash in money," the Bacoor mayor said.

MALIKSI: "I am winning. How could I have cheated in so massive a scale?" ERIK ARAZAS

Maliksi said Revilla had all the power and resources of the administration to cheat and buy votes.

At least P300M

"I think they spent no less than P300 million," Maliksi said of his rival. Revilla reportedly got a one-time donation of P100 million from someone.

Maliksi said it was the Revilla camp that spent money to deprive him of many votes. "My supporters were given P300 to P500 so that they won't be able to vote," he said.

He said that on Election Day, his supporters were given money and that indelible ink was applied on their fingers so that they could no longer vote.

Cavite has nearly one million registered voters from its 20 towns and three cities.

"In all these towns, I am winning. How could I have cheated in so massive a scale?" Maliksi asked.

He was leading Revilla by 123,000 votes on Friday.

Maliksi said he spent his and his wife's savings and donations from his friends who would give him P10,000 or P20,000.

In his petition to declare a failure of elections in Cavite, Revilla cited massive vote buying, use of fake ballots and disenfranchisement of voters.

The senior Revilla showed the INQUIRER "official ballots," which, he said, were given to voters.

He said the ballots bore the Comelec's security watermarks, which indicated that these were genuine. However, the seven-inch thick pile of ballots showed only one serial number—0004075.

Tancangco at Island Cove

"My suspicion is this came from Luzviminda Tancangco, a Comelec commissioner. My people reported that three weeks before the elections, she met the Comelec election supervisors in Island Cove and the instruction was to write Ayong Maliksi's name on the original tally sheets and Maliksi will take care of them," the senator said.

The senior Revilla, who joined Lakas after the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada at the Senate, said he would "spearhead the impeachment" of Tancangco.

"This is what defeated me," the governor said, holding a sheet of the excess ballots.

Lourdes Cruz, president of the Metro-South Homeowners Subdivision in General Trias, said thousands of voters in her locality were unable to vote because their names could not be found in the voter's list.

Ebuna said that in General Trias alone, some 15,000 out of the 49,309 registered voters were unable to vote.

Antonio Durano Balina, 41, of Barangay San Francisco, General Trias, said he and nine of his relatives were among some 100 voters who were unable to vote because they did not find their names in the list in two precincts in the barangay.

Curiously, he said the list showed two people whom he did not know to be living in his residence at the Pabahay 2000.

Balina said he and his relatives had been removed from the list since he became a coordinator of Lakas.

Ebuna said the Comelec also failed to include in the list some 200 transferred or new voters in San Francisco.

There were also "flying voters" as indicated by the list where no specific addresses were listed, according to Ebuna.

'Bong did not perform'

Maliksi said Bong lost for two reasons, none of them about money.

"First, his appearance at Edsa II, making him a turncoat, did not help him," Maliksi said.

"Second, Bong did not perform. He had no clear program for Cavite. It was all form," Maliksi added.

From being Southern Tagalog's premier province and leader in industrialization, Cavite is now lagging behind its other neighbors, according to Maliksi.

"And even the provincial capitol was held up. How can you respect a leader who would let that happen?" he said.

Maliksi said he gained the voters' trust because of his good record as Imus mayor. He said it was during his time that Imus became a first-class municipality and the "Christmas capital" of the Philippines, with income rising from P6 million to P150 million.

Maliksi urged Bong to concede.

"My appeal is that the people have spoken. So let's forget this battle. The more we fight, the more it hurts our province. This is his chance to make an honorable exit," Maliksi said.

Bong Revilla, however, vowed not to concede.

"This is not the true will of the Caviteños because I still believe the Caviteños still love me. I was not defeated in this election, it was these fake ballots and massive vote buying which defeated me," he said.

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House arrest poses dilemma for Macapagal

(From page A1)

To which request, the President was reported to have said: "*Hindi nga puwede ang ganoon.* (That can't be.) It's the Sandiganbayan's call." Estrada's lawyers have filed such a request, claiming they have precedents to back it. If they have the evidence, there's no stopping them.

But the conversation between Ms Macapagal and Estrada is bizarre. It sounded very much like bargaining between a policeman and a motorist over a traffic violation in which extralegal arrangements are discussed to fix a case, except that the dialogue in the hospital involves high political drama and key political leaders.

It was reported that Estrada had told Ms Macapagal: "*Sa ating dalawa, wala namang problema* (Between you and me, there's no problem)." Ms Macapagal said she "has no personal objections to house arrest."

A problem arises from this encounter. Estrada is speaking from a personalistic value system in which problems can be solved by *aregluhan* (compromise) among powerful people.

The value collides with an impersonal value held by Ms Macapagal who has made a point that no one is above the law when the government implemented the arrest order on Estrada.

Dilemma

The house arrest issue highlights the dilemma impaling the President and even the Filipino people. Her dilemma: Can she compromise on the principle of equal administration of justice for political convenience?

The dilemma of our people: Are we prepared to accept the rigor of an impartial administration of justice?

As the attack on the Palace on May 1 and the election results show, we are a deeply divided nation.

The attack followed the incendiary rallies at Edsa in April, sparked by Estrada's arrest which his followers, both from the elite and the *masa*, could not accept.

Estrada's arrest and the Ombudsman's filing of the plunder cases with the Sandiganbayan have been described as "turning points" in the effort to achieve justice and equal application of the law on both the disadvantaged and the powerful.

These episodes show that half of us want to prosecute Estrada to give credibility to the even-handedness of our judicial system and the political will of our leaders to carry out this basic reform on the administration of justice.

Half of us are not prepared to accept the rigors of the principle of equal justice before the law and are even disposed to march in the streets and attack the seat of power—not so much to restore Estrada to power but to give him privileged treatment while on detention.

Ms Macapagal has taken cognizance of public opinion pressure resisting the rigorous implementation of the law, and has bent over backward to show compassion to Estrada.

But if she has to be consistent with the principle that no one is above the law, she cannot concede beyond what the law permits.

However, she can only push the notion of equality within what half of this polarized nation, bound by tradition used to seeing privileges accorded to the powerful, is prepared to accept.

Crossroad

In the case of Estrada's arrest, the nation arrived at a crossroad. Indeed, it has made a turn toward the direction of impersonal administration and has already encountered turbulent resistance along the way.

If she pushes the concept too far, she may ignite another turbulence in the streets or even a civil war.

Abraham Lincoln decided to take a stand to save the Union after the Confederates attacked, on April 12, 1861, the government garrison at Ft. Sumter in Charleston Harbor, North Carolina. The attack sparked the American civil war.

Lincoln informed Congress that "the assailants of government began the conflict of arms." He then proclaimed a blockade of southern ports.

The Sumter attack also brought to a head the issue of emancipation of slaves. That war was the bloodiest in American history and more bloody than many European civil upheavals.

Is President Macapagal prepared to push the principle of impersonal administration of justice at the risk of a civil war? Is it a principle worth putting her presidency on the line?

By arresting Estrada, the Macapagal administration broke the unwritten code that no President could ever be arrested to face justice, but she had to pay a heavy price and fallout—an attack to seize power and restore Estrada to the presidency.

She may have reached the point of no return.

In their petition for house arrest, Estrada's lawyers have asked the Sandiganbayan to heed the "public opinion" expressed in the election results.

They cited that Church groups, including Catholic bishops, favored house arrest. They cited election results in which people associated with Estrada appeared to have won seats in the senatorial elections.

Connection

It's hard to see any connection between these events and granting Estrada's petition for house arrest.

If an impersonal administration of justice is a sound principle in law, why should it be determined by "public opinion"?

What is the relationship between house arrest and the election results? What do the lawyers mean by public opinion? Is it the 8-4-1 result in the Senate in favor of the administration candidates or a 0-13 result?

From results tabulated so far, it can't be denied the administration's People Power Coalition has won twice more seats than the Puwersa ng Masa in the Senate.

Can we interpret this as "public opinion" endorsing the administration's decision to pursue the plunder charges against Estrada that should be a basis for denying the petition for the house arrest for Estrada?

Lawyers, a privileged class, need to be consistent, too. We know they have a responsibility to defend their clients and to see to it their rights to due process are protected.

But what they are seeking in their petition for house arrest is a regime of two-tiered or even multitiered judicial system in which some are more privileged to enjoy leniency than others, according to a special hierarchical scheme.

This is an argument for elitist privilege—a concept Estrada has claimed to repudiate in his slogan "*Erap para sa mahirap.*"

Iloilo count errors rising, says Namfrel

(From page A1)

PPC is still on top, maintaining its 8-4-1 lead over rival PnM in the senatorial race. *(See chart on Page A1.)*

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the Namfrel tally of the senatorial race in La Salle Greenhills showed PPC candidate Ralph Recto still enjoying the 13th spot, keeping PnM candidate Juan Ponce Enrile out of the "Magic 13."

The tally was based on results from 132,498 precincts or 65.92 percent of the total number of precincts nationwide.

Today, the Commission on Elections resumes its unaudited national tally for the senatorial race and party-list elections.

10-day Comelec count

Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said the official count would be finished in 10 days.

When the Comelec en banc, acting as the National Board of Canvassers, adjourned the canvassing at 3:15 on Saturday, it had tabulated 14 out of the 102 certificates of canvass (COCs) from the cities and provinces representing 1,792,254 votes, or 4.8 percent of the 36,605,346 registered voters.

"At the rate we are going, we can perhaps canvass 15 to 30 (COCs) a day. Maybe in about 10 days, we may be able to finish," Benipayo said at a forum at the Westin Philippine Plaza yesterday.

The COCs that had been canvassed came from Marikina City, Siquijor, Aurora, Quirino, Aklan, Zambales, Camiguin, Marinduque, Biliran, Ilocos Sur, Catanduanes and Camarines Sur.

3-million lead

Independent candidate Noli de Castro continued to pull away and had almost three million votes more than second-placer Juan Flavier.

The Namfrel tally also showed the former TV news anchor leading in all regions, except in the Cordillera Autonomous Region, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Bicol and Western Visayas.

Sergio Osmeña III ranked third, while Ramon Magsaysay Jr. continued to fight neck-and-neck with party mate Joker Arroyo for fourth.

Those in the 7th to 12th spots did not change. They were Manuel Villar, Francis Pangilinan, Edgardo Angara, Panfilo Lacson, Loi Ejercito-Estrada and Gregorio Honasan.

2 party-list seats

Party-list group Mamamayan Ayaw sa Droga (MAD) of movie actor Richard Gomez was now sure of at least two seats in the House of Representatives after garnering 493,283 votes from 28 percent of the precincts.

So was the leftist organization Bayan Muna, which continued to rally with 470,667 votes. It was followed by Apec with 179,146 votes; VFP, 147,286 votes; and Akbayan, 93,753 votes.

Also in the top 10 were Butil, Cibac, Buhay, NPC and Lakas-NUCD.

The party-list group that gets at least 2 percent of the total party-list votes is entitled to one seat in Congress. A total of 163 party-list groups have joined the race.

Salazar said he had already brought the *dagdag-bawas* (vote-padding and shaving) problem to Namfrel national chair Jose Concepcion, and to the local Comelec offices.

Unless the Comelec corrected the erroneous entries, these might "drastically change" the results of the elections, he said.

Glaring errors

The errors in tabulation were most glaring in the summary of votes in Precinct Nos. 2110424, 2110423, 2110426, 2110425 and 2110427 in Estancia town, 135 km north of Iloilo City.

In many instances, the inaccurate tabulations reduced votes from PPC candidates and added votes to those under the PnM.

The PPC candidates whose votes were substantially shaved off due to wrong addition were Arroyo, 78 votes; Liwayway Chato, 51; Herrera, 92; Magsaysay, 260; Monsod, 36; Osmeña, 77; Pagdanganan, 120; Pangilinan, 33; Recto, 24; and Tañada, 133; Perfecto Yasay, an independent candidate, lost 40 votes, while Angara lost 23 votes.

Other PPC candidates were also affected, but the deviations were less than 10 votes each for Drilon, Flavier and Villar.

The PnM candidates were the beneficiaries from the erroneous tabulations. De Castro earned 160 more votes; Santiago, 101; Ejercito-Estrada, 99; Enrile, 52; Honasan, 106; Lacson, 47; Mercado, 15; and, Puno, 58.

The local Namfrel has sent a facsimile of the tabulation sheets and statement of votes from the precincts in Estancia to Manila as proof that *dagdag-bawas* marred the counting of votes.

"I don't know the agenda of the tabulator who did it. But it was definitely done with the knowledge of three others who signed the statement of votes in that five precincts," Salazar said.

The errors in the COC from Estancia were noted and corrected during the tabulation conducted by the provincial board of canvassers Friday, according to Victor Gaborne, provincial supervisor of the Comelec in Iloilo.

Daniel Badilla, chair of the municipal board of canvassers in Estancia, said the errors were "honest mistakes."

Erroneous tabulations were also noticed in at least two of every 10 precincts in Iloilo City, as shown by the random sampling of the certificates of canvass from Namfrel.

Errors found

Iloilo-based members of the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants (Picpa), who audited the certificates, discovered the errors before they entered the votes into the computers.

Unlike in Estancia, the mistakes in computations in Iloilo City spared no candidates and political parties. In Precinct No. 838-A in Poblacion, Molo District, Angara lost one vote; Herrera, 10 votes and Magsaysay, one vote.

Drilon and Flavier each lost five votes in Precinct No. 1075-A in Villa Arevalo in Iloilo City.

At Bonifacio Tanza, 10 votes were deducted from Recto's final score. Recto also lost 20 votes in Precinct No. 430-A in Lapuz, La Paz, and one vote in Rizal, also in La Paz.

Those who gained votes in some precincts were Santiago, five from Precinct No. 966-A in Hibao-an Norte, Mandurriao District; and Jamby Madrigal, also five votes in Precinct No. 952-A, also in Mandurriao.

Even party-list groups were victims of the erroneous tabulations. At Precinct No. 781-A in Boulevard, Molo, party-list LEDFI has no vote but was credited with three, while MAD has three votes but got none in the final tabulation.

G. Bert Arbis, acting Comelec supervisor for the city, asked members of the Board of Election Inspectors, many of them teachers, to come back and correct the erroneous entries in the tabulation sheets.

Arbis blamed the lapses on the lack of sleep of teachers.

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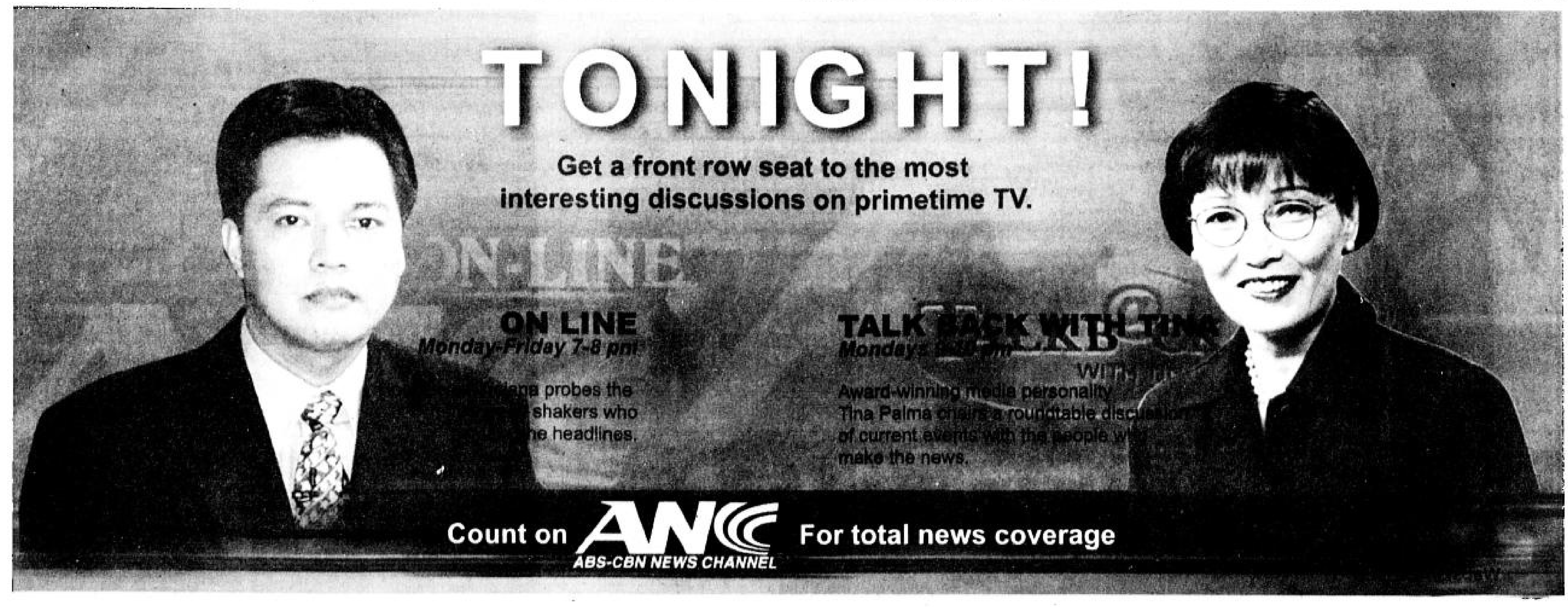

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Silver Story rules Cojuangco Cup

SILVER Story launched his Triple Crown quest in impressive style, winning the Cojuangco Cup pulling away yesterday at the Santa Ana Park.

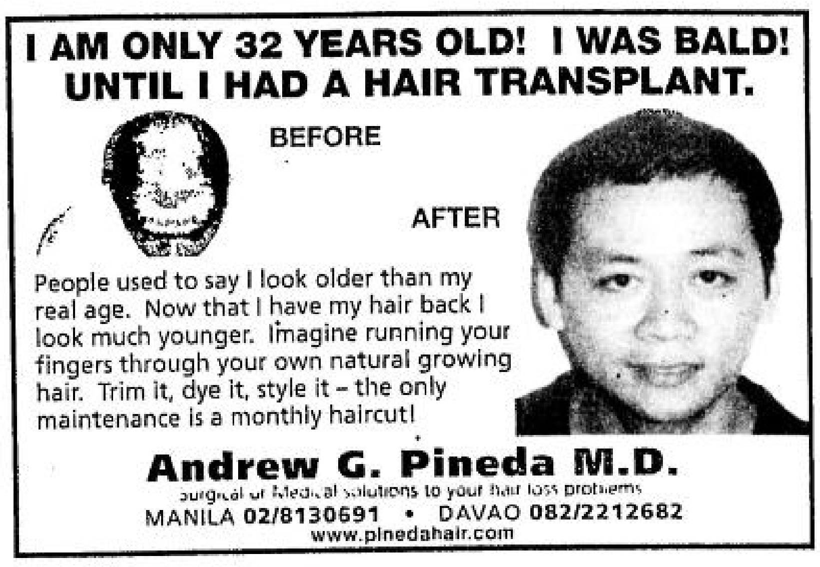
The heavily favored grey galloper prevailed by eight lengths despite a dull start in the 1,600-meter race.

Star jockey Jonathan Hernandez drove him from seventh spot in the early going before sending him for the kill at the far turn where he stormed past Batangas Entry and drew clear for good.

Silver Story (Conquistarose-Northern Edge) pocketed P1 million. He guns for another victory in the second jewel of the series on June 10 when the JV Ongpin Cup (1,900 meters) is held at the San Lazaro Hippodrome.

Sky Hawk, with Joe Noel Camu aboard, won the battle for second place worth P375,000. Batangas Entry, handled by Pat Dilema, finished third for P208,500, while Hammerhead, steered by Julio Manalo, arrived fourth for P83,500.

Winning time was 1:41 flat (24.5-24.5-24.5-27.5).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PREAKNESS STAKES

Point Given (right), with Gary Stevens aboard, sprints to the finish line to rule the 126th Preakness Stakes in Baltimore Sunday. AP Valentine (left) finished 2 and ½ lengths behind, while Congaree, stablemate of the slightly favored Point Given, placed third. Kentucky Derby winner Monarchos ended up only sixth. REUTERS

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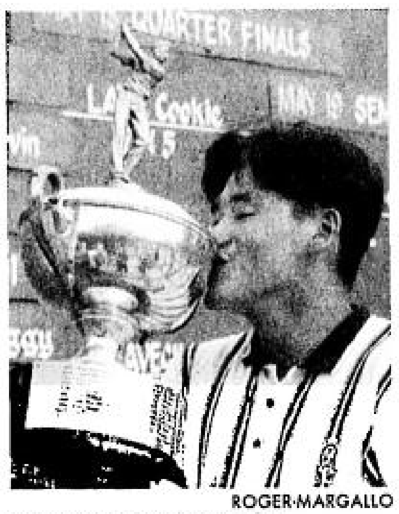
Que registers lopsided win

By Jong Arcano



ROGER MARGALLO

QUE kisses his trophy.

ANGELO Que hooked his first drive into the thick rough and was just about to return to the tee-box until the man who challenged his Philippine amateur golf championship repeat bid yesterday, Juvic Pagunsan, did him a big favor by finding his ball in the nick of allowed time.

That set the mood for the rain-disrupted final match as Que practically had Pagunsan giving in to whatever he desired, pulling off one of the most lopsided victories in the event's long history.

With a big gallery of family, friends and teammates egging him on, Que rampaged to an 8&6 victory and never really gave Pagunsan a chance to cause him any worry.

The defending champion won four of the first nine holes disputed, padded it to five at the completion of the morning match and put the outcome beyond doubt when he zoomed ahead by seven after 27 holes of the scheduled 36-hole duel.

"I really didn't expect it to end so quick, I'm just lucky Juvic didn't play too well today," said Que who became the first player to repeat as champion in six years since the now professional Richard Sinfuego.

"This is a belated birthday present for my mom," said Que. He also thanked Southwoods, Southpoint and Wilson for supporting his drive for glory.

Que secured the win on the par-3 12th hole where Pagunsan missed the green and conceded after his pitch went over the flag.

Pagunsan wasn't able to win his first hole until the 12th and One of his sorry misses came on the 17th which he didn't win despite a double-bogey on the 17th.

Que won for the second time in five tries in the event. Although he had announced his plans to turn pro, he is expected to lead the country's campaign in the Southeast Asian Games and the Putra Cup this year.

Riviera Open today

A ROUND-TRIP ticket to the United States will be at stake when the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite stages the inaugural Riviera Jungolf Open starting today.

The Riviera management headed by its president Commodore Danny Pizarro and general manager John Blanch is putting up the special prize donated by Thai Airways to the winners of the event under a special raffle scheme.

Kobe sizzles as LA Lakers dump Spurs

SAN ANTONIO—Kobe Bryant, with take-your-breath-away moves and long-range daggers, stole San Antonio's homecourt advantage in a hurry in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals.

Bryant scored 45 points on 19-for-35 shooting and grabbed 10 rebounds as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Spurs 104-90 Saturday.

Game 2 is Monday night (Tuesday morning in Manila) in the first showdown between the past two NBA champions in a conference final since 1985.

Bryant got big help from Shaquille O'Neal and timely contributions from the Lakers' supporting cast.

Bryant fell just three points short of his career playoff high of 48 set in his last game, the series clincher against Sacramento. It was the most points ever against San Antonio in a playoff game, surpassing the 45 Hakeem Olajuwon scored for Houston in the 1995 conference finals.

O'Neal and Bryant may have feuded in the regular season, but they blended like Beach Boys harmony in this one. When one would misfire, the other took over.

O'Neal added 28 points, 14 rebounds and six assists as the Lakers won their 16th in a row—eighth in the playoffs. He even made six of eight free throws AP

76ers battle Raptors

PHILADELPHIA—Allen Iverson's dream season is coming down to one game.

Iverson won his second scoring title in three years, earned MVP honors in the All-Star game and was the NBA's Most Valuable Player, but his year will be a disappointment if the Philadelphia 76ers lose to the Toronto Raptors on Sunday (Monday in Manila).

Bucks face Hornets

ST. FRANCIS, Wisconsin—The "Big Three" shooters saved the Milwaukee Bucks' season in Charlotte, yet it's been their surprisingly stingy defense that has allowed them to get this far in the playoffs.

Until Thursday night when they combined for 85 points to force a decisive Game 7 on Sunday (Monday in Manila), the shots just weren't falling for Ray Allen, Sam Cassell and Glenn Robinson.

Amelie trips Martina anew

ROME—For the second straight week, France's Amelie Mauresmo knocked off the world's top-ranked player to advance to a key clay-court tournament final.

And on Saturday, Mauresmo needed one less set to do it, battling past Martina Hingis 6-4, 7-6 in the Italian Open semifinals.

It was the ninth straight win for Mauresmo, improving her 2001 match record to a tour-best 31-2 and locking her in as one of the French Open favorites.

Mauresmo, seeded No. 4 on Rome's red clay, will be shooting for her fifth title of the year on Sunday, when she will face Yugoslavia's Jelena Dokic.

The 18-year-old Dokic advanced to her first professional final with a 6-3, 6-2 win Saturday over Conchita Martinez. AP

Cancio, Co top S'woods tourney

BELINA Cancio and her guest partner Rio Co bagged the overall title while Ferdie Agustin and Heidi Chua romped off with the low gross plum in the recent 2001 Manila Southwoods Invitational tournament.

Cancio and Co combined for a net 267 while Agustin and Chua turned in a 308 to upstage a full-packed roster of 144 teams that saw action in the 36-hole event at the Masters and Legends course of Southwoods.

Chua actually upstaged her male member partner with her rounds of 71-71 as she also powered her team to a six-stroke victory in Class A with their net 282.

The other winners were Bert Payumo and Manuel Syyap in Class B, Roger Adajar-Freddie dela Peña in Class C and Bernie Sevilla-Jimmy Zenarosa in Class D.

The sponsors of the tournament are Mitsubhishi Motors, Diamond Motors, Asian Terminal Inc., San Miguel, PLDT, Trilux, Asia Phil. Manufacturing, Davies Paints, Excell Contractors and Developers Corp., CAP General Insurance Corp., Golf Force, Manila Southwoods Manor, Emerald Lighting fixtures, Ericsson, Recio+Casas, Federal Management, Mutual Reliance, Nestle, Piedra/Fred de Guzman, Smart, Gilbert Tumangan, Absolute, Bacchus Wine, Camp John Hay, Discovery Spa, Discovery Suite, Fairways & Bluewaters, Forest Hills, Kork, Southwoods Manor, Palm Garden, PAL, Premier Wine and Spirit, RL Centeno, Sherwood Hills, Splash Island, Trilux and Wilson.

More than P1.8 million in prizes were given away aside from a brand new Mitsubishi GLS automatic that was raffled off during a fun-filled awards ceremony graced by Southwoods chair Bob Sobrepeña.

The Agustin-Chua duo finished six shots ahead of Florene delos Santos and Ho Gil Lee in Class A.

Payumo and Syyap tallied 275 to win by six over Larry Muñoz and Jose Mari Delgado. Adajar and Dela Peña's 274 gave them a two-shot victory over lawyers Polo Pantaleon and Jay Jamora while Sevilla and Zenarosa posted a 279, 10 ahead of Bernard Yap and Efren San Sebastian.

7-cock derby slated

ENTRIES in the "Araw Ng Kalayaan 7-Cock Derby," slated on June 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23 and 26, are advised to make an early reservation at the Mandaluyong Coliseum.

A maximum of 40 entries will be accommodated per elimination day of the event.

Hosted and promoted by the Optimum Property Management Inc. (OPMI), the seven-day cockfight festival for smalltime and medium-scale cockers dangle an eye-popping prize of P5 million, while entry fee is only P20,000. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Red Bull in cooperation with Washout Shampoo.

For reservation of air-conditioned cockhouses, interested parties may contact 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

"I enjoin all smalltime and medium-scale cockers to join this derby," said coliseum manager Nady Yu.

Meanwhile, submission of weights to the "12th Ucap/PB San Pablo Sagupaan Guts and Glory 6-Cock derby," is tomorrow, Monday, May 21, from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m. The event is slated on Tuesday and Thursday, May 22 and 24.

Subic hosting watersports tilt

WATERSPORTS action takes the limelight anew as the 2001 99.5RT FM Watercross Challenge unfolds on May 26 at the Waterfront Beach Boardwalk in Subic.

The event, supported by Magnolia Ice Tea, Pringles, SBMA, Subic Bay Aqua Sports, Tabata Sports Sandals and Theragnan M, will also serve as the launching round of the 2001 Jet Sports Association of the Philippines (JSAP) Jet Sports Watercross Series.

All riders are urged to attend the briefing on May 22, at 7 p.m. at the Manila Polo Club.

"99.5 RT FM is proud again to host this annual event, and we are even more honored now that it has been elevated as part of the national series," said 99.5 RT station manager Eric Eloriaga.

JSAP has accepted a new set of board of directors for the 2001 racing season, with Joey Mantolino as president and members Sonny Yalung, Arnold Martinez, Dong Arcilla, Willy Ang, Roland Aguila, Wacky del Rosario and Henry Dee.

Araneta meet on

EXPLOSIVE fights mark the resumption of the NCA 7-Cock Derby today (Monday) at the Araneta Coliseum, firing off with three-cock elimination matches at 5 p.m. and ending with the four-cock finals on Wednesday, May 23.

The blockbuster derby is the 12th leg of a 15-leg series under the auspices of the National Cockers Associaton. It will be hosted by topnotch cocker-breeders Gery Fevidal, Bobby Doromal, Buddy Robrigado and the NCA.

Among the entries are past winners Jessie Viceo (San Rafael), Cocker of the Year leaders Alan Tan and Patrick Puno (Capitan III) and Big Dome owner Nene Araneta (Thunderbird-Firefly IV).

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SPORTS

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BASKETBALL: Asian Basketball Show at 10:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA Eastern Conference Semifinals, Game 7 at 12 noon on RPN 9 (r-5:30 p.m. on IBC 13)

GOLF: Mastercard Colonial, First Round at 8 a.m. (r), Final Round at 10 p.m. on Star Sports

NAT'L TRACKFEST

Aing shines; 5 marks fall

By June Navarro

AING

PHILIPPINE Navy's Jimar Aing snared his fourth track gold to become the most bemedalled athlete at the close of the 2001 Milo Invitational Track and Field Championships at the Rizal Memorial Track Oval.

A two-year mainstay of the national team, the 23-year-old Aing joined forces with teammates Fidel Gallenero, Edmund Ramos and anchor John Lozada in the 4X400-meter relay to earn the accolade.

Their team clocked 3:18.91 to beat Philippine Air Force, which finished the race in 3:22.72, just a second ahead of Philippine Army.

Earlier, Aing frustrated his rooters in the 400-meter run by copping only the bronze medal behind Air Force's Ernie Candelario (47.27 seconds) and Mowen Boino of Papua New Guinea (47.28). Aing clocked 48.43 seconds.

But the Basilan native and his Navy crew bounced back in style in the 4X400, cutting the tape almost 50 meters ahead of Air Force anchored by Candelario.

He also won the double sprints (100 and 200-meter dash) and the 4X100-meter relay with the same team.

As the four-day event closed its curtains, five national records fell, boosting the national pool's morale in time for the Kuala Lumpur Southeast Asian Games in September.

Geralyn Amandoron heaved 53.75 meters to reset the mark in women's javelin while Gallenero replaced his own record of 6,789 points with 6,964 points in decathlon.

Marathoner Christabel Martes erased the existing mark in the women's 10,000-meter run while Joebert Delicano and Percela Molina etched their marks in the triple jump.

Martes punctuated her awesome performance in long-distance running with a gold-medal finish in the 5,000-meter run, clocking 17:23 minutes to subdue a Thai opponent.

8 PBA squads sign up imports

EIGHT PBA teams have already signed up their respective imports, standing 6-foot-8 at the most, who will be seeing action in the Commissioner's Cup beginning on June 3 at Philsports.

Bringing in the same faces are Barangay Ginebra, Sta. Lucia Realty and newly crowned All-Filipino champ San Miguel Beer.

The Gin Kings called back the gangly 6-foot-8 Ryan Fletcher, who reinforced them last year, the Realtors re-signed Ansu Sesay, while the Beermen is choosing between silent but sassy Stephen Howard or shaded lane monster Terquin Mott.

Either way, San Miguel will remain the most fearsome team since both imports have steered the franchise to a championship in the past two years.

But five new imports are expected to give them a run for their money, led by Tanduay Gold's Cedric Goodwyn, a 6-foot-8 forward for the Colorado State in the NCAA.

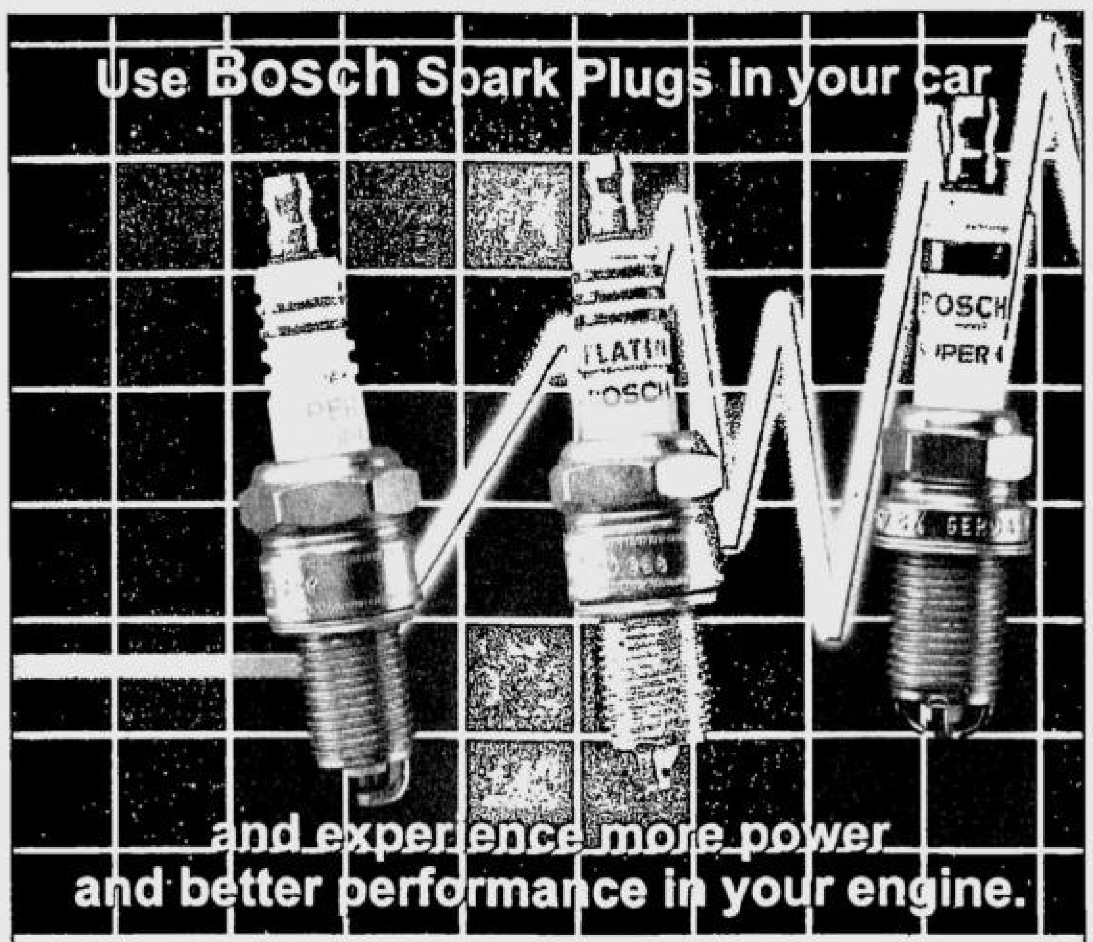
Pop Cola, third placer in the recent conference, brings in Jason Sasser, who stands 6-foot-7 and played for Texas Tech and Kansas City Knight in the American Basketball League where he is one of the scoring leaders.

Batang Red Bull acquired Antonio Lang, 6-foot-8, who played as forward for Duke University in the NCAA. Mobiline snagged Rosell Ellis as early as two months ago, a 6-foot-5 banger from McNeese University, who is expected to lift the franchise from two seasons of futility.

Purefoods reportedly got NBA veteran David Wood, who played for six NBA teams including San Antonio Spurs but whose most recent stint was with the Champions for Christ where Hotdogs coach Eric Altamirano is actively involved.

So far, Alaska Milk and Shell have yet to announce their reinforcements.

Marc Anthony Reyes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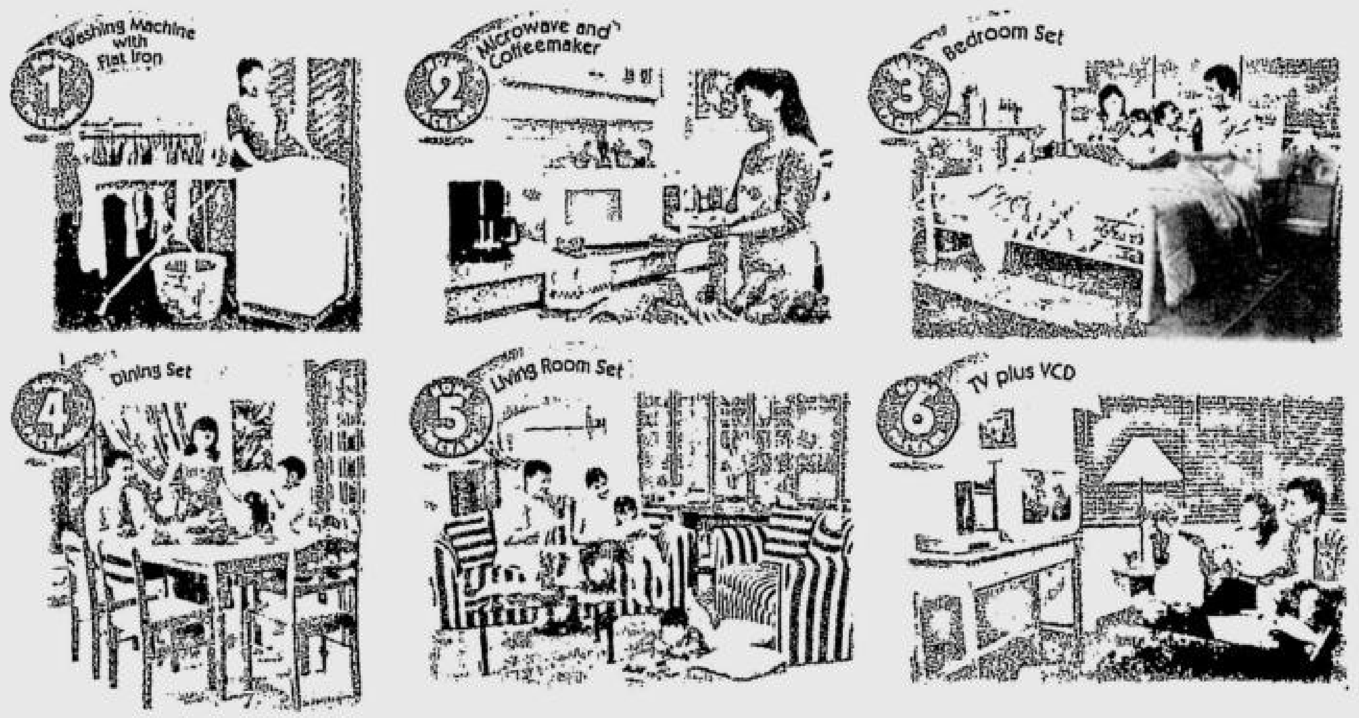

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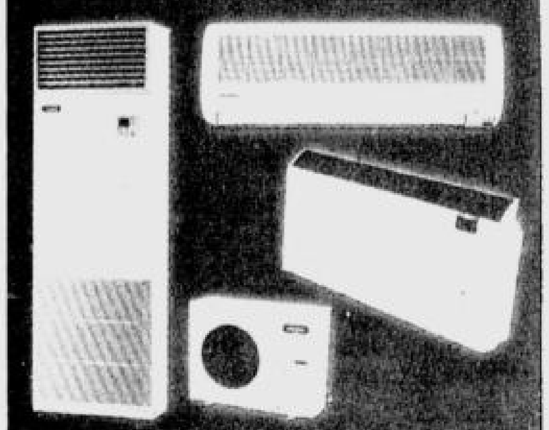

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2.0 HPWM	~~44,000~~	41,500	2,500
2.5 HPWM	~~48,000~~	46,000	2,000
3.0 TRFM	~~63,500~~	59,000	4,500
3.0 TRCM	~~65,500~~	61,000	4,000

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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

10 Berroya cops face murder raps for slay of New World employee

By PHILIP C. TUBEZA

FOR committing a "mistake," 10 members of the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group (PNP-IG) are facing murder charges.

Officials of the Central Police District (CPD) are preparing to file murder charges against the 10 officers for the ambush killing of New World Hotel's chief steward in Quezon City on Thursday night.

The PNP-IG is headed by Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya.

A source yesterday told the INQUIRER that the PNP-IG agents mistook Fernando Lozada, 48, of 49 Ferdinand St., Vista Verde Executive Village in Cainta, Rizal, for a member of a kidnapping syndicate that the agents were after.

The policemen allegedly opened fire at Lozada's car along Araneta

10 BERROYA/ A27

MOTHER AND CHILD get attention from Ina-Anak Inc. members (from left) Lita Deyta, Gina Conde (background) and Violy Anastacio. BETOY JOHNSON

Pasay mothers try to do more for the poor

By CECILE G. GARCIA

TALES OF THE CITY

WHILE campaigning for presidential candidate Corazon Aquino in the depressed areas of Pasay in 1986, Ma. Teresa Lopa saw how the poor of the city lived.

"Suddenly I realized we had to do something more for those poor people," says Lopa, a long-time resident of Pasay who had been helping Sister Christine Tan with her projects in Leveriza in the same city.

PASAY/ A27

Erap crony's son, 'Spice Boy' win Congress seats

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE SON of a known crony of jailed former President Joseph Estrada and a "Spice Boy" won the congressional seats in Valenzuela City.

The Commission on Elections yesterday morning proclaimed Sherwin Gatchalian and Magi Gunigundo winners by landslide in their respective congressional districts.

Gatchalian, son of

ERAP/ A27

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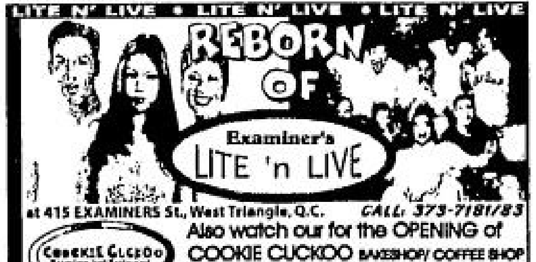

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WEDNESDAY	AEGIS / PARLIAMENT
THURSDAY	FLIPSIDE / MERMAIDS
FRIDAY	GLADYS & THE BOXERS/U B F
SATURDAY	ERASEHEADS & POLICY
SUNDAY	FAT SESSION

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10. Ester Dela Fuente
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11. Evelyn C. dela Rosa
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13. Annaliza P. Lim
Isabela
14. Romeo C. Llamas
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15. Gemma L. Maaño
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16. Joana A. Mamanao
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17. Evelyn Mombay
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18. Antonio B. Naz
Cavite
19. Luz G. Price
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20. Nena Lopez Pua
Kalinga
21. Emilio Quivedo
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22. Floridel F. Raquiño
Cagayan
23. Loida P. Retardo
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24. Rosita Sibbaluca
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25. Carmencita Sto. Domingo
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26. Norie Tan Sy
Quezon City
27. Robertson J. Tumpang
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30. Adelfa Wenceslao
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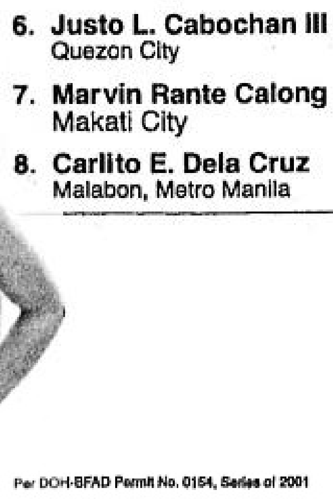
Quezon City
2. Cezar SF Alba
Leyte, Maasin City
3. Maria Victoria O. Balaong
Kalookan
4. Marcela Basilio
Baguio City
5. Antonieta Rada Cabiting
Quezon City
6. Justo L. Cabochan III
Quezon City
7. Marvin Rante Calong
Makati City
8. Carlito E. Dela Cruz
Malabon, Metro Manila
9. Narisa Dela Torre
Mandaluyong City
10. Divina A. delos Santos
Caloocan City
11. Leticia C. Encargues
Quezon City
12. Meldy S.M. Fernando
Morong, Rizal 1960
13. Roger A. Hermosilla
Pasay City
14. Joseph M. Leovideses
Quezon City
15. Mary Ann T. Lim
Manila
16. Rizza A. Martin
Quezon City
17. Rufina C. Ngini
Quezon City
18. Vilma M. Nucum
Marikina City
19. Anthony Q. Ong
Manila
20. Felixberta C. Padrillan
Cavite
21. Teresa W. Pajo
Cagayan de Oro
22. Maria Anna C. Paragas
Valenzuela City
23. Maria Rostella M. Piñero
Quezon City
24. Roberto N. Ramos, Jr.
Marikina City
25. Richard G. Rodriguez
Valenzuela City
26. Richard Santos
Manila
27. Noah Medina Setias
Antique 5707
28. Benito Siy
Quezon City
29. Joselito D. Sulit
Cavite
30. Rodrigo Visperas
Pangasinan



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Oreta: My partymates junked me

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DAUGHTER of Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta yesterday accused her Puwersa ng Masa partymates of junking her in the Malabon-Navotas congressional election.

"I'm convinced that my partymates junked me at the last minute," said Rissa Oreta, eldest daughter of the pro-Estrada senator.

"I guess, that's the way it is in politics," she said. "My mistake was that, I trusted people who I thought was on my side."

Oreta said the junking cost her the Navotas congressional seat. She and incumbent Rep. Federico Sandoval of the People Power Coalition fought for the post.

Alfonso Torres, Oreta's legal counsel, yesterday hinted that Sandoval and Puwersa candidate Mayor Tobias Tiangco might have tried to cheat following the confiscation of 88 election returns in Malabon Friday night.

"It was very obvious that incumbent officials like Sandoval and Tiangco may have something to do with it," the legal counsel said.

Oreta criticized her partymates for "keeping mum" on the election returns supposedly seized in Yambao's former campaign headquarters of Vice Mayor Jay Jay Yambao in Malabon.

"They're silent because they have won already," she said. "I don't expect them to help me. That's the way it is. Toby (Tiangco) used to be with Lakas."

Tiangco refused to comment on the issue.

Oreta said her partymates in Malabon and Navotas did not even bother to get their copy of the official election returns for Puwersa's own quick count.

Her lawyers yesterday asked the Comelec to suspend the canvassing of votes in Malabon and investigate the confiscated election returns.

The petition was denied.

Eleven of the election returns supposedly showed Tiangco trailing del Rosario in barangays Tangos and Tanza in Navotas.

According to 77 of the seized returns also showed Oreta winning by a landslide over Sandoval in five Malabon barangays.

Malabon election officer Armando Mallorca, however, said no election returns were missing in his area.

Sandoval scored a landslide victory over Oreta in Navotas, his hometown, with 41,532 votes against her 28,735.

Oreta is also trailing Sandoval in Malabon, her mother's bailiwick, where she got 22,646 votes against his 25,607, according to the partial tally by the Commission on Elections.

Malabon and Navotas are a single congressional district.

Oreta said she was disappointed since she was the lone Puwersa candidate who lost in Malabon and Navotas.

"My family and I have always been prosecuted for being pro-Erap," she said. "But how come I lost when my party actually dominated the Malabon-Navotas elections?"

Tiangco won over the PPC's Felipe del Rosario in Navotas.

Tiangco's runningmate Lutgardo Cruz won as vice mayor.

Puwersa candidates took 11 of the 12 seats for councilors in the flood-prone town.

In Malabon, Oreta's partymates Mayor Amado Vicencio and Vice Mayor Yambao would most likely keep their posts, based on partial Comelec results.

ORETA (in campaign photo) says, through her lawyer, it's "very obvious incumbent officials like Sandoval (right) may have something to do" with an alleged attempt to cheat.

Erap crony's son

(From page A25)

"plastics king" and Estrada ally William Gatchalian, defeated Magtanggol Gunigundo Sr., former chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, with a 15,684 margin.

The young Gatchalian, a member of the Estrada-backed Nationalist People's Coalition, garnered 28,404 votes while Gunigundo had only 12,720.

The win prevented a father-and-son tandem from occupying Valenzuela's two congressional seats.

Gatchalian earlier criticized the Gunigundos for trying to start a political dynasty in the city.

Magi Gunigundo, a member of the "Spice Boys," a group of young lawmakers in Congress, won a second straight term after besting former congressman Tony Serapio.

Gunigundo got 37,807 votes while Serapio got 21,694.

The Gunigundos ran under the People Power Coalition banner.

In the mayoral race, incumbent Mayor Emmanuel Carlos won a third and final term.

He defeated his vice mayor, Boy de Guzman of the NPC, 76,176 to 49,784. The Gunigundos' mayoral bet, Eliseo Demafelis, was third.

The administration party was divided in Valenzuela after Carlos and the Gunigundos, all members of the PPC, fielded their own candidates.

The division confirmed the feud between Carlos and Magi Gunigundo that began during the 1998 elections. They were runningmates then.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 21, 2000
6th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 16:11-15
Gospel: Jn 15:26—16:4

Jesus said to his disciples, "From the Father, I will send you the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father. When this Helper comes, he will testify about me. And you, too, will be my witness for you have been with me from the beginning.

I tell you all this to keep you from stumbling and falling away. They will put you out of the Jewish communities. Still more, the hour is coming when anyone who kills you will claim to be serving God; they will do this because they have not known the Father or me. I tell you all these things now so that when the time comes you may remember that I told you.

I did not tell you about this in the beginning because I was with you."

May 21 Monday – commentary

The Spirit of Jesus continues the witnessing of Jesus in the world through the witnessing of the disciple Church. We as Christian believers are called to stand out in a world that operates differently from God's standards. We live in times when the forces of co-optation into a globalized world are so strong, that to do otherwise could spell marginalization and persecution. One who is imbued by the Spirit of truth will know how to interconnect with others and stand the test. We are still living in times when religion in all its forms is frequently used, or rather abused, for vested political and economic interests. The sad thing is that some of the most religious even in the story of God's church had fallen prey to a crusading spirit, killing people in God's name. May such infamous stories be not repeated in our own times.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cnl.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Relationship between witness and victim—The imputation of ulterior motive has absolutely no basis at all and is nothing more than a vacuous speculation. Blood relationship between a witness and the victim does not, by itself, impair the credibility of the former. On the contrary, relationship strengthens credibility, for it is unnatural for an aggrieved relative to falsely accuse someone else other than the actual culprit. The earnest desire to seek justice for a dead kin is no served should the witness abandon his conscience and prudence and blame one who is innocent of the crime. Consequently, in the absence of any evidence that would suggest an improper motive against the eyewitnesses the conclusion is immutable that none had existed and that their testimony is worthy of credence. [Citations omitted.] [Chief Justice Davide Jr., People v. Sualog, G.R. No. 134310, Nov. 15, 2000]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

ABOUT PPA

• 98% goes to NPC & other electric suppliers
• 2% goes to government through taxes

The PPA, or purchased power adjustment, is an automatic adjustment mechanism approved by the Energy Regulatory Board (ERB) through which Meralco recovers increases in the cost of power purchased from such suppliers as the National Power Corporation (NPC).

Automatic adjustment mechanisms as the PPA are not unique to Meralco.

These are found in the bills of all electric distribution utilities in the country, including electric cooperatives.

NOT ONE CENTAVO OF THE PPA GOES TO MERALCO. The PPA is merely a mechanism by which Meralco reflects increases in the cost of power purchased from suppliers. Not a single centavo of the PPA goes to Meralco.

THE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN MERALCO'S PPA OVER THE PAST YEAR SIMPLY MIRRORS CORRESPONDING INCREASES IN NPC'S SELLING RATE TO MERALCO. NPC continues to be Meralco's single largest supplier. In the first three months of 2001, the government-owned power company accounted for 92 percent of Meralco's energy requirements.

Thus, the steady rise of the PPA that customers have been observing parallels the rise in NPC's selling rate to Meralco.

The increase in the PPA is not unique to Meralco. All electric distribution utilities that depend on NPC for their supply have seen their PPA increase by a substantial amount over the past year, as can be attested to by the leadership and members of the Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (APEC).

RECENTLY, NEWSPAPERS CARRIED REPORTS THAT NPC WILL BE IMPLEMENTING A 20-CENTAVO PER KWH REDUCTION IN THE PPA. IT WAS ONLY IN NPC'S APRIL 2001 BILL TO MERALCO THAT THE 20-CENTAVO PER KWH FPCA REDUCTION FOR MARCH AND APRIL 2001 WAS REFLECTED, RESULTING IN A CUMULATIVE REDUCTION OF 40 CENTAVOS PER KWH. This will be passed on to customers in Meralco's May 2001 PPA. The reduction in the PPA will remain for as long as NPC provides the reduced rates.

NPC's PPA is just one sub-component of its billings, as can be seen below:

COMPONENTS OF NPC'S BILL TO MERALCO

Basic Charge
- Demand Charge
- Energy Charge

Fuel and Purchased Power Cost Adjustment (FPCA)
- Fuel Cost Adjustment
- **Purchased Power Adjustment**

Forex

Thus, the 20 centavo/kwh reduction of the PPA mentioned in newspaper reports refers to NPC's PPA and not to the PPA of electric distribution utilities like Meralco.

Movements in NPC's other bill components: the basic charge, the fuel cost adjustment and the FOREX, are independent from that of the PPA.

THE MANNER BY WHICH THE PPA IS COMPUTED EVERY MONTH IS MONITORED AND SCRUTINIZED BY THE ERB. ERB is the government agency that oversees operations and sets the rates of electric utilities like Meralco.

The formula used in computing the PPA must have ERB approval before its implementation.

Every month, Meralco submits to the ERB its PPA calculations, for the regulator to validate whether the PPA formula was used properly and whether the correct inputs were used in the computations.

All of Meralco's PPA calculations are recorded with the ERB and are available for public examination.

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Pasay mothers try to do more . . .

(From page 25)

That same year, Lopa, together with some friends, formed the non-government organization Ina-Anak Inc. They felt the name Ina-Anak was appropriate because their purpose was to help mothers and their children from the marginalized communities of Pasay.

Ina-Anak started officially in 1988. It now has 24 members, with founder Lopa as treasurer and executive director.

The other Ina-Anak officers are Edita Vergel de Dios, president; Dr. Lydia Milan, vice president; Tocy Reyes, assistant treasurer; Cora Lopa, assistant secretary; and Silvana Diaz, PRO.

Because of its limited resources, Ina-Anak focuses its attention mainly on two districts, San Isidro and San Roque, which cover 21 barangays.

"It's a mission on my part," says Lopa.

Since its inception, Ina-Anak has established two day-care centers, its first project. It has also set up a health program and a handicraft project.

It is one of three organizations running The Pangarap Shelter in Dasmariñas, Cavite, a home for street children that is Ina-Anak's most ambitious project so far. The other two are Sons of Mary and The Ladies of Charity of Pasay.

But it is through the Ina-Anak's health program that the group can be most helpful to the most number of people in the communities within their jurisdiction.

Lack of funds

"We train mothers to be health volunteers," says Lopa. "This is done professionally by our health retainers." Mothers are taught first aid, ways to prevent sickness in the family and what to do in case of home accidents.

Ina-Anak has 84 active health volunteer workers in hospitals and health centers in Pasay. Unfortunately, says Lopa, training has stopped due to lack of funds.

Funding is a perennial concern of NGOs like Ina-Anak. "We receive donations from generous friends and government bureaus such as Pagcor and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, and also from the American Chamber of Commerce and Unicef," she says. "We get a donation annually from the international bazaar which is put up by the wives of expats."

They can also always rely on monthly dues from the members themselves.

Ina-Anak's trained workers, about 30 mothers and young girls create handicraft items that are another source of funds since the workers get paid. "We provide all the materials and sell the finished products," says Lopa.

Ina-Anak's day-care centers, a source of pride for Lopa, provide nursery and kindergarten classes for young children.

"We have two of these day-care centers," she says. "One on Tramo-Victor Street and another on Apelo Cruz. We have two volunteers for each."

Training

Matilde Badeo is one of two volunteers for the Apelo Cruz day-care center in Barangay 157, San Roque district. Married to a taxi driver, with only one child, a daughter, Badeo teaches nursery and kindergarten in a makeshift classroom, which she says was destroyed in a huge fire that razed the entire Barangay 157 in August 1999.

"It took three months to rebuild everything, including the center," says Badeo.

Before she could teach at the center, Badeo had to undergo a one-month training program at the DSWD. "We have guidelines on early child care and development," Badeo says, adding that it is basic for volunteers to know a child's rights, which must be inculcated in every child early on.

"We also learn how to make a lesson plan, how to conduct a class, how much time to spend on every activity and how to teach values formation," she says.

Badeo trains continuously by attending seminars such as the one given by an Italian NGO in 1998.

With three two-hour sessions daily in both nursery (children ages 3 to 4) and kinder (5 to 6), Badeo has her hands full.

"Sometimes, especially at the start of the school year, we have as many as 30 children per session," she says. Sadly, though, the number decreases as the classes progress because some students drop out.

Children's potentials

Tuition at the center, according to Badeo, is below that in public schools. At the day-care centers, tuition is P350 annually per child to cover materials and the monthly allowance of each volunteer which is P1,100.

"We are fully accredited by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports and by the Department of Social Welfare and Development," says Badeo.

AS in any other school, students are taught Pilipino, English, Science and Math. Exams are given quarterly and outstanding students are cited and awarded medals of recognition during graduation rites at the Pangarap Shelter in Cavite.

"At the end of the term, we start lessons in Grade 1," Badeo says. "We want to prepare the child and to see his potential."

Badeo says she loves teaching small children and feels inordinately proud whenever she finds out that her students are doing well in grade school. "This year one of them finished Grade 1 with honors. I was very happy."

Her students are mostly neighborhood children who live on the same block or in the same barangay.

She says this is the first time she's doing volunteer work and she finds it gratifying. Aside from teaching at the center, she becomes a barangay health worker every Saturday when the improvised classroom is converted into a clinic. She acts as a medical assistant, for free.

WOMEN OF MISSION Ma. Teresa Lopa (seated) and social worker Clon Padilla discuss Ina-Anak programs. BETOY JOHNSON

Fulfilling

It is clear that Badeo's heart belongs to the center.

"I really enjoy what I'm doing," she says. There may be problems, particularly in disciplining the pupils who are a mix of boys and girls. There may also be limitations. "We have to make the most of what we have such as books usually donated by DSWD, Unicef, the Rotary Club and Ina-Anak," says Badeo.

Despite their handicap, the teachers are able to do their job. "Sharing what I have learned, what I know with the children is very fulfilling," Badeo says.

As a day-care center volunteer, she admits that aside from the regular monthly allowance, she enjoys other benefits. When their house burned down in the big fire of '99, for instance, Ina-Anak gave her extra cash allowance and provided building materials for a new home.

What she is most grateful for, however, is that Ina-Anak sponsored her daughter's education from grade school to high school. An Ina-Anak scholar receives P1,000 every school year in the elementary grades and P2,000 in high school for tuition fee and school supplies.

Thanks to Ina-Anak, Badeo's daughter is now ready for college.

Lopa says that with better resources and more funds, Ina-Anak Inc. hopes to extend its scholarship program so that it can also help send children to college.

---

3 keep south Metro seats

BY ALCUIN PAPA AND IRENE CURTIS

THREE incumbent officials in southern Metro Manila retained their posts after besting rivals in the May 14 elections despite charges of fraud.

Mayor Wenceslao "Peewee" Trinidad of Pasay City was proclaimed winner over rivals Ricardo "Ding" Santos and Greg Alcera.

Commission on Elections Pasay City chair Lope Gayo proclaimed the winners Saturday night even when the counting of the votes was not finished yet.

Gayo told the INQUIRER that he made the proclamation after consulting with the legal representatives of all the candidates and after making sure the final tally would not affect the standing of the winners.

Trinidad garnered a total of 52,099 votes while his closest rival, Santos, had 29,614.

Councilor Connie Dy was proclaimed winner of the congressional race with 45,218, besting incumbent congressman Rolando "Ding" Briones, former senator and basketball star Freddie Webb and former tourism secretary Mina Gabor.

Trinidad's running mate Antonino Calixto won against Joven Claudio, son of former mayor Jovito Claudio, for the post of vice mayor.

Earlier in the counting, the camps of Santos and Alcera charged that Trinidad's camp was involved in widespread cheating.

In Las Piñas City, Vergel "Nene" Aguilar ran away with the mayoralty, garnering 80,930 votes against his closest rival Daniel Quilatan who had only 2,930.

Aguilar's running mate Louie Bustamante also won against former movie star Tirso Cruz III for vice mayor.

AGUILAR

Aguilar's sister Cynthia Aguilar-Villar, wife of former Speaker and senatorial candidate Manny Villar, also won the Las Piñas congressional seat with 48,689 against Antonio Tamayo's 29,469.

The local Comelec proclaimed all the Las Piñas winners Friday night.

Tamayo earlier protested charged that he was a victim of widespread cheating.

In Muntinlupa City, incumbent Mayor Jaime Fresnedi won against Bess Aguilar-Masangkay, sister of Las Piñas Mayor Aguilar, with 64,818 votes against Masangkay's 47,822 votes.

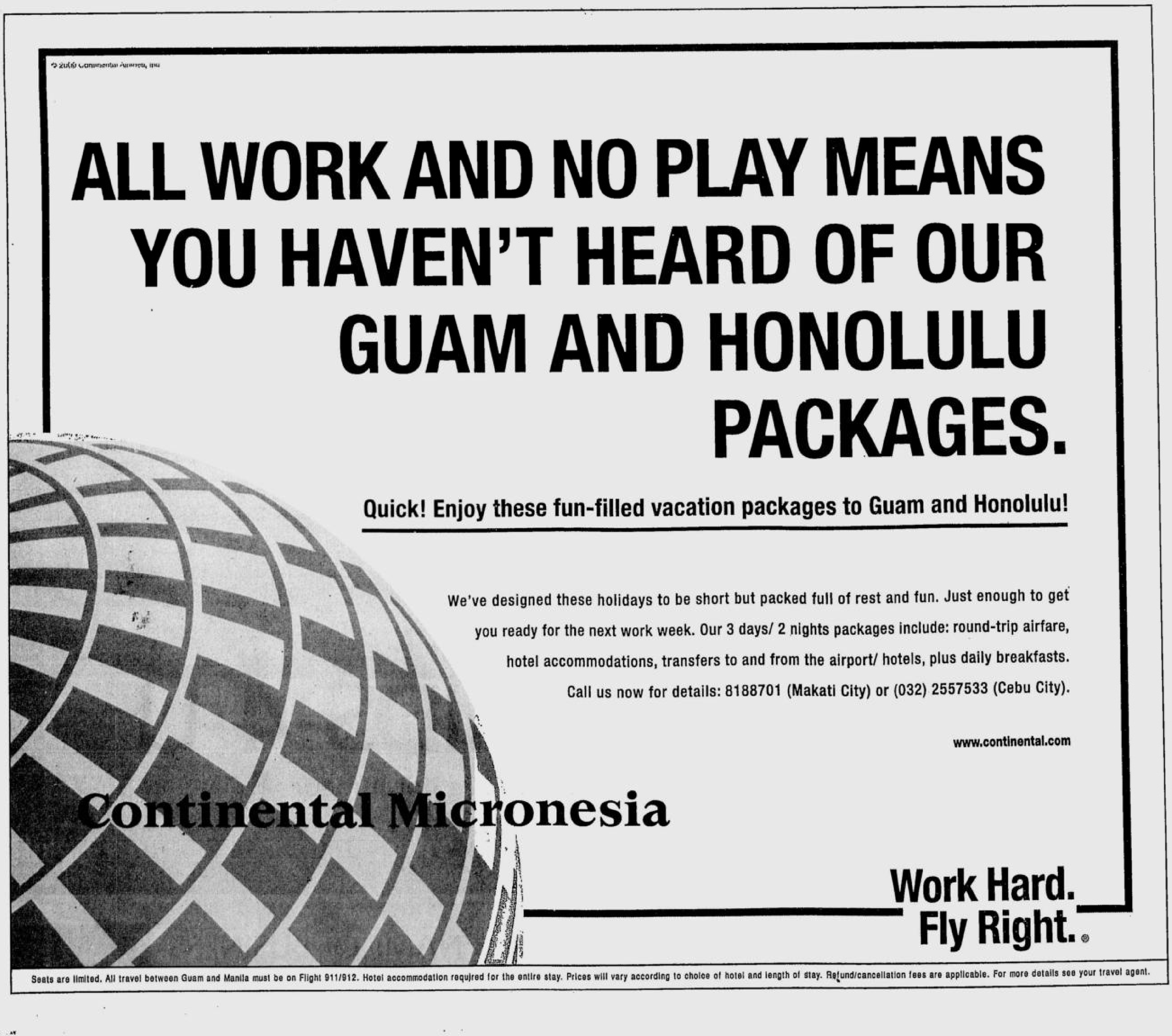
Fresnedi's lead is reportedly the largest garnered by any candidate in the city.

His running mate Jojay Alcaraz won against Vic Chua in the vice mayoral race.

For the Muntinlupa congressional seat, Rozzano Biazon, son of Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, bested incumbent congressman Ignacio Bunye, 51,435 to 49,918.

In a statement sent to the INQUIRER yesterday, Bunye conceded defeat but said his lawyers would protest Biazon's win because of irregularities and "the massive disenfranchisement of voters in Muntinlupa."

The Muntinlupa winners were also proclaimed Friday night.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A reminder of heroism

By Jeusa Raflores and JP Andaquig

TWENTY-THREE years of active service in the Western Police District (WPD) did not prepare Insp. Carlito Valenzuela for his present assignment.

Valenzuela, 40, is the project development officer of the Manila Police Department-Western Police District Museum and Gallery, a 300-square-meter hall in the heart of Manila's Chinatown at the corner of Reina Regente and Felipe II streets in Binondo.

Here, police heroes are enshrined in old, framed photographs, uniforms, badges, and newspaper clippings, among other memorabilia. Curios ranging from the Manila police's pre-war telegraph machine to the .45 pistol Chief Supt. Avelino Razon used in fighting Moro rebels in Basilan are also found in the museum, the first of its kind in the country.

The museum pays tribute to the WPD, and its predecessor, the MPD. It seeks to present to the public a positive image of the policeman and a greater appreciation of police activities. It serves as a reminder of the heroism of the men and women in the 100 years of Manila's police force.

It also hopes to inspire a sense of devotion in the current crop of policemen. More important, the museum is proof that policemen are ready to give their lives to protect the people, Valenzuela noted.

In contrast to the busy shops on the bustling streets outside, the museum is silent, but Valenzuela does not mind the peace. He regularly sweeps the floor of dried fallen leaves, which the wind blows indoors. He keeps the exhibits dust-free as he patiently waits for visitors.

Few visitors

But visitors do not come in hordes. There are months when they do not come at all. Since classes ended last March, only four people have visited the museum.

From December 2000 to January 2001, Valenzuela recorded only 78 visitors, and only 144 visitors from February to March.

Established during the 1974-1980 incumbency of Col. James G. Barbers as WPD chief, the museum was originally at the lobby of the WPD headquarters on United Nations Avenue in Ermita, Manila. Miguel Parungao was its first project development officer or museum curator.

When Alfredo Lim became Manila mayor, he moved the museum to its present location in Binondo, a Spanish *cuartel* used by both the American and Japanese forces in World War II. Lim also renovated it with the help of civic groups and private individuals.

One of the most prized items in the museum is the .45 pistol with silencer and the .38 gun used by former WPD director Razon when he was assigned in Basilan during the secessionist campaign of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

Valenzuela said that he takes the most care of Razon's guns and checks if they are still in place before he leaves the museum for the day.

Amazing cop

The museum also has a memorabilia of Supt. Aida Fariscal, the amazing policewoman whose police instincts and investigation led to the arrest of Ramzi Ahmed Yousef, the Arab terrorist who plotted to assassinate Pope John Paul II during the papal visit in Manila in 1995. One of the world's most wanted men, Yousef was also the mastermind of the 1983 World Trade bombing, which killed about 300 people.

Fariscal was then commanding a community precinct at the corner of Taft and Quirino avenues in Malate, when she discovered drums of bomb chemicals inside two apartment rooms rented by Yousef, Valenzuela narrated. She foiled the assassination plot, and Yousef fled to Pakistan where he was arrested.

The museum has a gallery dedicated to Chief Insp. Lucio Margallo IV, the first police officer to confiscate more than 100 kilos of shabu in a single year (1991). Margallo, famous for his fight against drugs, was also the one who put behind bars the leader of the 14-K gang, Alan Khor. He also seized 95 kilos of shabu in a buy-bust operation on June 7, 1996.

Another pre-war item is an old telegraph used during the American period. There are also wooden figurines showing the evolution of the police uniform.

Honor roll

An interesting exhibit is a collection of framed photographs on a wall. These are pictures of policemen in service from the 1940s up to the 1970s who gave up their lives beyond the call of duty.

These brave men belong to the "Manila Police Honor Roll," but Valenzuela said the wall could not accommodate all of them. Photographs of policemen from the last two decades who belong to the honor roll are still not hanging on the wall, he said.

Valenzuela is not only the general supervisor of the museum, he is also its curator, manager and janitor. He used to have three assistants, but they all left "probably because of boredom and the lack of financial allowances."

Valenzuela hopes his former assistants would not return to the museum as artifacts or pictures.

The most serious problem the museum is facing is its substandard and deteriorating conditions. Visitors complain about the museum's lack of ventilation. The heat also affects the museum items.

The museum uses only fluorescent lights and not the standard lighting for museums.

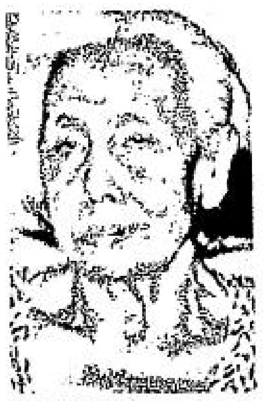
Lack of money is the main reason why the museum is in this state, Valenzuela said. At present, the MPD-WPD Museum Foundation Inc. is its only source of funds.

"I need an assistant who will research on the items because many of these items are not properly labeled," Valenzuela said.

Yesterday, the museum marked its 25th year. Valenzuela said he still has many dreams for it.

Valenzuela hopes that this corner of history would survive, like the words inscribed on the museum walls: "Go spread the word, tell the passersby, that in this little world, men knew how to die."

HISTORY'S GUARDIAN Senior Insp. Carlito Valenzuela keeps watch over the country's first police museum. ERIK ARAZAS



IMPERIAL

Missing

MARIA Mamigo Imperial, 84, strayed from home in Malate, Manila in the afternoon of May 19 and has not been seen since.

She has white hair and a big mole on the upper lip. She speaks English and Visayan fluently but suffers from mental lapses, according to daughter Belliza Imperial.

Please bring her to 2230-9 Leveriza St., Malate, or call her daughter at 484-0748.

10 Berroya cops face . . .

(From page A25)

Avenue in Quezon City after he drove through a police blockade and "nearly ran over an agent," the source said.

The policemen, however, would have to explain why they continued shooting even after Lozada's car had rammed into the sidewalk.

Glass splinters injured Lozada's 17-year-old daughter while a bullet hit family friend Marian Uson, 18.

Lozada was driving a Mitsubishi Lancer (TKM-265).

"The suspects are now restricted to Camp (Crame)," the source told the INQUIRER. "They were very cooperative. They even brought the victims to the hospital after the incident."

The source said CPD investigators are waiting for the results of the paraffin and ballistics tests before the charges are filed against the 10 officers before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

"We want to make sure who among the 10 suspects fired their guns," the source said.

He said the PNP-IG men members thought Lozada was a member of a kidnapping syndicate who had just received ransom money on Thursday night.

"There was a pay-off at a nearby Glori's supermarket right before the incident happened," the source said.

He said the kidnappers used a car that looked exactly like Lozada's.

"The (PNP-IG men) must have been confused when the kidnappers quickly drove away after the pay-off," he said. "He mistook Lozada's car for the car of the suspects."

The investigator said PNP-IG members, in two vehicles, blocked Lozada's path on Araneta Avenue and then they flagged down his car and ordered him to get off the vehicle and to surrender.

The sight of 10 heavily armed men apparently frightened Lozada, who drove off.

"The victim drove on and nearly ran over one of the agents," the source said.

He said there was another police blockade down the road but Lozada made a U-turn and drove against the traffic flow.

The investigator said this apparently made the PNP-IG men think that the driver was not going to surrender peacefully.

Case investigator PO3 Diosdado Pedroanan said the PNP-IG men opened fire and hit Lozada as he neared the corner of Araneta and Maria Clara Street in Barangay Sto. Domingo.

Lozada's car rammed into the sidewalk but the policemen continued firing at the vehicle.

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Get a kick out of Cole Porter in CCP show

TODAY'S young generation may not be familiar with his name but they definitely have heard of the hits composed by Cole Porter, such as "C'est Magnifique," "Begin the Beguine," "I've Got You Under My Skin," "Ev'ry Time We say Goodbye," "I Get a Kick Out of You," "What is This Thing Called Love," "Night and Day."

On June 26, Cole Porter's music will be interpreted by mezzo soprano Josephine Roces Chavez, baritone Eugene Villaluz, pianists Della Gamboa Besa and Raul Sunico, guitarist Butch Roxas and flutist Antonio Maigue at the CCP Little Theater.

The show, "Porter on Parade," starts at 7:30 p.m. and is part of the concluding CCP special concerts series.

Cole Porter learned to play the piano and the violin when he was six. He composed songs as early as 1901 with a song he called "Song of the Birds" and which he dedicated to his mother Kate. He published his piano work called "The Bobolink Waltz" in 1902.

He enrolled at the Worcester Academy in Massachusetts in 1905 and also studied at the Yale University. He left Yale with a legacy of about 300 songs, including six full-scale productions that helped him start up his career on Broadway.

But his first Broadway show, "See America First" in 1916, was a flop.

The first movie to contain a Cole Porter song was "The Battle of Paris" in 1929. Other movies followed like "Gay Divorcee" (1932) with Fred Astaire, "Anything Goes" (1934) and "Panama Hattie" (1940) with Ethel Merman.

With these song-and-dance musicals came some of Porter's best-known melodies such as "Let's Do It," "Night and Day," "I Get a Kick Out of You", "Begin the Beguine," "It's Delovely," "You're the Top," etc.

In 1937, he was injured in a horse-riding accident, and one leg had to be amputated. But this did not stop him from writing more songs.

Other Hollywood movies with Cole Porter music include "Can Can" (1953), "High Society" (1956) with Bing Crosby and Grace Kelly, "Silk Stockings," etc.

Porter was musically one of the most trained popular songwriters of the 20th century.

In the '80s and the '90s, Cole Porter songs became the themes of blockbuster movies such as "Jumanji," "French Kiss," "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom," "Hannah and Her Sisters," "Parent Trap," "Sphere," "Timecop," "Little Man Tate," "Mighty Aphrodite," "Meet Joe Black," "The Rocketeer," and "National Lampoon's Vacation," among others.

For inquiries, call the CCP Performing Arts Department at 832-1125 locals 1604 and 1605; 832-2314; the CCP Box Office at 832-3704 or the Marketing Department at 832-3681, 832-3878 and 551-7930.

Fall in 'Love' again with Zsa Zsa, Lani and Freestyle

LAST FEB. 14, two of the country's top divas, Zsa Zsa Padilla and Lani Misalucha, joined forces with one of today's most popular bands, Freestyle, in a Valentine's Day concert.

It was called "The Love Concert" and was held at the Araneta Coliseum.

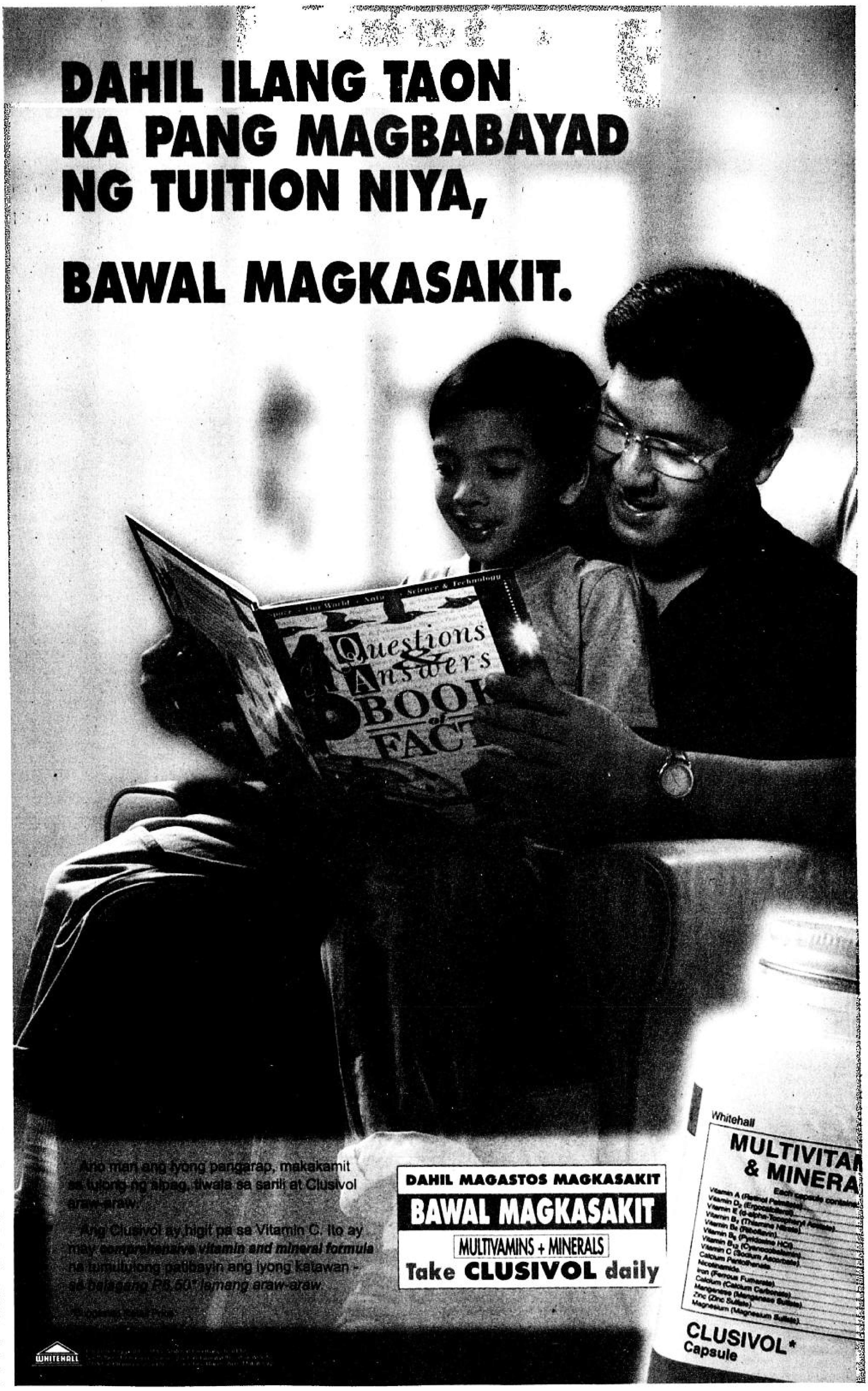
For those who missed the concert, Viva Records has just released the live recording of the concert. Also titled "Love Concert: The Album," the two-cassette or two-CD set brings the listener as close to the actual concert experience as possible, with more than two hours of live music.

The music was neither "cured" nor enhanced electronically during the making of the album.

Produced by Viva bosses Vic del Rosario and Vincent del Rosario, the album has Rene Salta as associate producer and Alwyn Cruz as supervising producer.

"This album is a first in the recording industry," says executive producer Vincent del Rosario. "Bringing together Zsa Zsa and Lani is already a

FALL/A31



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SM CINEMA GUIDE

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NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR		4173888
1	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
2	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
8	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
SM CENTERPOINT		7149522 • 7161416
1	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
2	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
3	DTS	VALENTINE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	15 MINNUTES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
SM CITY FAIRVIEW		9350749
1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
3	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR AND SPICE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
5	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
10	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
12	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
SM CITY MANILA		5239240
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	SUGAR & SPICE
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
11	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
12	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
1	ULTRA SURROUND	KUNG LILIGAYA KA ...
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DIVINO
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED
SM MEGAMALL		6331901 • 6329401
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	POSSESSED
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	15 MINUTES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
SM CITY NORTH EDSA		9295452
1	DOLBY SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	15 MINUTES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	POSSESSED
7	DTS	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	VALENTINE
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MEXICAN
SM SOUTHMALL		8066888 • 8066782
1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VALENTINE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	SUGAR & SPICE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED
TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	POSSESSED
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAILANGAN KO'Y IKAW
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	EXTREME WARRIORS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	HALIK NG SERENA
SM PAMPANGA		7128015
1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	15 MINUTES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	SAY IT ISN'T SO
3	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	MINSAN MAY ISANG PUSO
6	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

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2 VALENTINE	2 15 MINUTES In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND	6 SPY KIDS In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND	2 SPY KIDS In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND	2 SOMEONE LIKE YOU In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE POSSESSED	3 VALENTINE THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND	7 EXIT WOUNDS In DTS DIGITAL SOUND	3 SOMEONE LIKE YOU In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND	3 VALENTINE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 15 MINUTES	4 THE CRIMSON RIVERS (Phil. Premiere) Art Film In DTS DIGITAL SOUND		4 MAY 18 - 19 MOTHER TONGUE Onstage	4 THE POSSESSED In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
				5 15 MINUTES In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

MMTA

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MOVIE GUIDE

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Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS)	SPY KIDS
2 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
3 (DTS)	EXIT WOUNDS
4 GOLD (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
6 GOLD (SDDS)	DOUBLE TAKE
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	VALENTINE
8 [illegible]	BALIKTARAN
9 [illegible]	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
10 [illegible]	15 MINUTES

Pearl Plaza Cinemas

(Parañaque) tel. 853 4486

1	PILAK
2	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
3 (DTS)	THE MEXICAN
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3

(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	
2 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
3	THE GIFT

Masagana CINEMA

(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	BALIKTARAN
2	PILAK
3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

starmall Movies

(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	SPY KIDS
3	PILAK
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	VALENTINE
5	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Metropolis

(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	BALIKTARAN
2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
4	RESERVE
5	POSSESSED
6	SPY KIDS
7	VALENTINE
8	PILAK

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX

(Makati City) tel 751.2010 / 892.3349

1	VALENTINE

Center Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC

tel 930.9515

1	PILAK
2	ART OF WAR
3	GET CARTER

Spring

(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
A	DIVINO. ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Sunshine

(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	BALIKTARAN
2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA . . .
3	PILAK
4	DIVINO. ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

GOTESCO CINEMA

City

(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	BALIKTARAN
5	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
6	PILAK
7 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8 (SDDS)	VALENTINE
9 (DOLBY)	POSSESSED

Caloocan

tel 362.3508

2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Grand Central

(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	PILAK
2	BALIKTARAN
3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
5	POSSESSED
6 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
7 (DTS)	VALENTINE
8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth

tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	VALENTINE
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4	BALIKTARAN
5 (SDDS)	POSSESSED
6	SPY KIDS
7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
8	PILAK

Ortigas

tel 656.6795

1	SPY KIDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
4	PILAK
5 (SDDS)	EXIT WOUNDS

Universal

(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Sampaquita

(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN

Dilson

(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson
Lords
Jennet

Mandaluyong

tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	VALENTINE
2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	RESERVE
4	SPY KIDS

Prima

(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
2	PILAK

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto

SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
2	VALENTINE
3	POSSESSED
4	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
5	PILAK

New Divisoria Mall

CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
2	SPY KIDS
3	PILAK
4	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
5	RESERVE
6	KUNG LILIGAYA KA

Baclaran LRT

CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	BALIKTARAN
2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
3	PILAK
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall

(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	SUGAR & SPICE
2	EXTREME WARRIORS
3 (DTS)	SPY KIDS

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ANTI TRUST
2 (DTS)	SUGAR & SPICE
3 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
4	BALIKTARAN

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	VALENTINE
2	POSSESSED
3	SPY KIDS
4 (DTS)	PILAK

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
2	BALIKTARAN
3 (DTS)	ANTI TRUST
4	SUGAR & SPICE
5	ATTACK FORCE

Olivarez Tri-Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ANTI TRUST
2	SPY KIDS
3	SUGAR & SPICE

Olivarez Los Baños

tel (049) 536.5101

1	ANTI TRUST
2	SPY KIDS
3	WEDDING PLANNER

Olivarez Tagaytay

tel (046) 413.0311

1	PURPLE STORM
2	WEDDING PLANNER
3	DIVINO ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA

Morales Cinema

(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	SPY KIDS
2	ANTI TRUST
3	EXTREME WARRIORS

Cabuyao

(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	EXTREME WARRIORS
2 (DTS)	RESERVE

Fourstep

(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	EXIT WOUNDS

Emperor

(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DIVINO. ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
2	EXIT WOUNDS
3	BALIKTARAN

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	TAONG X
2	LUCKY NUMBERS
3	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	SUGAR & SPICE

Berma

tel 879.2168

1	THEY NEST
2	PILAK

CitiMall

(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	PILAK
2	BALIKTARAN
3	
4	

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	15 MINUTES
2	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	SUGAR & SPICE
4 (DTS EX)	SAY IT ISN'T SO

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High-flying 'Angel' soars on Hallmark

BEGINNING next month, Hallmark Channel will expand its programming with high-profile network television dramas, kicking off with "Touched by an Angel," a spiritually uplifting series that has been consistently rating high on US TV.

The award-winning family drama is shown every Sunday at 8 p.m. exclusively on Hallmark.

Roma Downey stars as Monica, the soft-hearted novice angel sent to Earth to help people at the crossroads of their lives. Serving under the watchful eye of her heavenly supervisor, Tess (Della Reese), Monica becomes involved in the lives of those who need to hear that God loves them.

Reese's memorable performance as the gruff but good-hearted supervisor angel who steers both her trainees and their "human" assignments back on the right path is an extension of her real-life ministry.

Monica is a sort of a case worker for God on divinely-guided missions. But being vulnerable, she sometimes gets passionately involved in the lives of the people who need her help, and sometimes gets too close to her subjects. That's where Tess steps in to keep her from losing sight of her heavenly duties.

Joining them is a compassionate "angel of death" called Andrew (John Dye) who also helps in their work. No matter how bleak their situations, those who encounter these divine agents ultimately realize that they have indeed been "touched by an angel."

Hallmark is also gearing up its production slate to meet viewer demands for more big-budget productions that have earned the channel top ratings and numerous awards. Plans are being formalized to introduce producer Steven Bocho's police series, "Brooklyn South," in June.

The Hallmark Channel is the global cable TV channel brand showcasing high-quality, award-winning original movies and miniseries in more than 32 million homes worldwide. It is owned and operated by Crown Media International Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Crown media Holdings Inc.

The channel is seen in the Philippines on Home Cable, SKYCable and other cable TV providers nationwide.

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① SPY KIDS
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④ SUGAR & SPICE
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⑥ VALENTINE
⑦ SOMEONE LIKE YOU

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① SPY KIDS
② VALENTINE
③ THE POSSESSED
④ 15 MINUTES
⑤ NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
⑥ BALIKTARAN

BACOLOD (034)441-0463

① EXIT WOUNDS
② RECESS
③ SAY IT ISN'T SO
④ NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
⑤ HALIK NG SIRENA
⑥ SWEET NOVEMBER

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BALIKTARAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VALENTINE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	15 MINUTES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	THE POSSESSED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	15 MINUTES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KAMANDAG NG ROSAS / OBJECT OF OBSESION
ODEON	VALENTINE
ODEON-2	POSSESSED
ROBEN	DIVINO. ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	MS. CONGENIALITY DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
QUEZON-1	DIVINO. ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR	DIVINO. ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
REMAR-2	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	VALENTINE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
CINEMA-2	BALIKTARAN
CINEMA-3	ORAS NA PARA LUMABAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LUCKY NUMBERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUGAR & SPICE
CINEMA-6	THE MEXICAN
CINEMA-7	DIVINO, ANAK NI TOTOY MOLA
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	VALENTINE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	15 MINUTES
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-12	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-14	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-15	EXIT WOUNDS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	THE POSSESSED
CINEMA-2	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-3	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
CINEMA-4	VALENTINE
CINEMA-5	15 MINUTES
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May 23 - Wednesday

GET A COPY of the 4th issue of Pelikula: A Journal of Philippine Cinema featuring WOMEN IN CHINA

Pelikula is one of the beneficiary projects of the LRP Foundation, published jointly with the U-P College of Mass Communication.

Hear the Difference. Feel the Excitement

Relationship between media, movies and crime reexamined

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IF you can see only one movie this week, make it "15 Minutes." This psycho-action-thriller boasts not just of **Robert de Niro**'s crackerjack performance as a famous police investigator but also of a plot premise and theme that have a lot to say about the relationship between media, movies and crime in today's world.

Specifically, the villains in this piece are two ambitious thugs from Eastern Europe who come to the States, ostensibly on a relatively easy mission: to get some money back from one of the thugs' best friend.

Unfortunately, the friend has already squandered the money, so the disappointed thug kills him and his wife. What about the other thug? He doesn't have a hand in the killings—because he's too busy recording them with his small movie camera.

Huh? What kind of thug is this who's more interested in filming than killing? Good question, but that's how the film gets the media into the movie's ken.

Other media-related inputs include making De Niro's character a popular regular on TV newscasts, giving him a girlfriend who's a news reporter, plus a sort-of friend who hosts a controversial "reality" show on TV.

The famous detective played by De Niro is tasked to solve the two initial murders, and he has an early run-in with a young arson investigator who's also assigned to the case because the villains set fire to the victim's apartment in an awkward attempt to hide the fact that they were murdered.

At first, De Niro and the arson investigator appear at odds because the young man disagrees with the veteran detective's belief that his media-generated popularity makes it easier for him to solve crimes and put their perpetrators behind bars.

But they are both competent professionals, so they soon get over their differences. De Niro takes a fatherly liking to the arson investigator and teaches him what he knows about crimebusting.

The strongest focus in terms of media is the filmmaking thug's constant use of his camera to record his spaced-out partner's dastardly deeds.

At first, all that the murderer wants is to cover up his tracks, but due to his erratic, violent nature, the deaths start piling up, and before anyone knows it, even De Niro finds himself at death's door.

Initially, one wonders why the killer allows his partner to film all of his bloody deeds. This does seem unreal – until the film makes a point of the fact that the killer is not just insane but is in dire need of affirmation.

So, he sees the movie that his friend is filming as his way to get the world to finally pay attention to him, and to give him its perverse "respect."

Thus does "15 Minutes" give its villain his share of Andy Warhol's limited period of fame, or more appropriately, infamy. Even if it means twisting the knife even more cruelly by allowing the crazed villain to add De Niro to his list of victims.

This is a controversial development that the film legitimizes by causing footage on the veteran detective's death to be shown on national television, as a far-out example of the bizarre lengths that media will sometimes go to feed off the ratings-boosting power of crime.

This gives the film a powerful, disturbing ending that prompts viewers to reexamine their views on violence, the media, the justice system that allows killers to plead insanity and thus get away with terrible crimes, etc.

Aside from De Niro's performance, "15 Minutes" boasts of other compelling characterizations, especially the work turned in by the actors who play the two thugs. They should be getting some Best Supporting Actor nominations in awards derbies next year.

'FIGHT CLUB'

A great example of the DVD format

By Mario Cornejo

REVIEW

BUY this DVD.

If for some reason you didn't understand me the first time, I'll say it again: Buy this DVD. If you don't have a DVD player, buy a DVD player so that you can buy and watch this DVD.

There. I think I've made my feelings clear on this matter.

The "Fight Club" DVD is a great example of this wonderful new format. A compelling, original movie, with many interesting special features, a fun and easy to use interface, packaged with art direction that is simply exquisite.

First off, when you see this product on the shelf, sitting next to "First Wives Club" or some other waste of space, the packaging stands out like a college graduate at Edsa III. The brown paper and twine motif of the hard slipcover is spare yet distinctive.

Inside, the actual case has great art, with beautifully printed pictures and text, and a layout that would rival any magazine. Included is a small booklet with liner notes from various people involved in making the movie.

The touch of genius is that the notes are interspersed with excerpts from reviews of the film, both good and bad, from critics across America. This tells you right away how the movie has garnered so many extreme reactions from both camps, those who loved it and those who hated it. And all are welcome, as this film's purpose is to make you react, think, and feel.

Vague summary

If you haven't seen this movie, here's a short summary that, hopefully, does not give away anything too important. Although I'm not too sure I should talk about it. (That was an inside joke for those of us who have seen the movie. You'll understand it when you go out and buy that DVD like I told you to).

Fight Club is about a man trapped in a lifestyle that advertisers are always trying to sell us, and finding it empty. He becomes a shade, unable to function, feel, or even sleep. One day he meets a woman who is all too real, and a man who will change his life, at all cost.

There. That was vague enough, I hope.

There's a lot more, of course. There's the violence, which you may have heard about. There are genuinely disturbing ideas and images spread liberally throughout this movie. All that has been discussed and analyzed when this production first hit theaters.

Flat-out funny

But what you might not have heard about is the fact that this film is flat-out funny. It is, after all, a black comedy. Probably one of the blackest, and I don't mean Eddie Murphy in a fat suit.

What other movie can challenge your sense of humor as much as it challenges your sensibilities? What other movie can show a support group for men with testicular cancer and have you falling out of your chair with laughter?

The film is adapted from a novel of the same name written by Chuck Palahniuk, an auto-mechanic turned novelist. It's directed by David Fincher, who gave us that classic feel-good movie "Seven."

Also included in Fincher's filmography are "The Game" and "Alien 3."

The two leads are played by actor's actor Edward Norton and Brad Pitt, who has been described elsewhere as a Sun God for his radiant charm and looks. The cast is rounded out by Helena Bonham Carter, Jared Leto, and Meatloaf.

That's right. Meatloaf.

All gave great performances, and the chemistry between the cast members is apparent in every scene.

New watermark

DVDs are expected to give great visual and sound quality, and only rarely fail to deliver on that. But what makes a DVD truly exceptional are the special features that are included with the main feature.

The special features in "Fight Club" are the new watermark.

On the main disc alone, you have the option of choosing between four audio commentary tracks. For example, you can listen to Fincher explain how he developed the particular scene you are watching, how he conceived and shot it.

Or you can listen to another commentary with the writers of both the book and the script giving their take on each scene.

There's another track where you can listen to the cinematographer, production designer, make-up artist and visual effects supervisor giving their input on their respective contributions.

But my personal favorite is the commentary where you can hear Fincher, Norton, Pitt and Bonham-Carter at the same time as they discuss with us and among themselves what was going on behind the scenes. This is full of funny and revealing moments as they deconstruct each shot and sequence, obviously having a blast while doing it.

More features

It's been said that soon there will be no need for film schools, as the amount of information available on DVDs will be enough of an education for wannabe filmmakers. While I don't think that statement was meant to be taken seriously, this DVD makes a very persuasive argument for it. The commentary tracks alone are an insightful and enlightening look at the filmmaking process.

Included in this DVD package is a supplemental disc simply crammed with even more special features.

Where to begin?

First off, you can get short biographies of the cast and crew. Admire the editing? See what else the editor has worked on. Love the music? Learn about the Dust Brothers and how they got started in their careers.

Next, maybe you want to take a look at the scenes that didn't make the final cut in the Deleted Scenes section. Also included here are alternate versions of some scenes, which you can compare with the final versions.

You can watch behind-the-scenes footage of different aspects of the film's production. This includes features on make-up, special effects, computer generated graphics and even location hunting. And the actual shooting, of course.

Advertising

There is a wealth of production stills, concept art, and even the entire storyboard, a comic-like blueprint that is the guide used by the crew during shooting to help them visualize and plan their shots.

But my favorite added feature is the advertising section, where all the ad materials are compiled and categorized. From the posters to the Internet ads, these commercial commodities are as innovative as the film itself.

For example, the press kits for the film were laid out like a clothing and accessories catalogue, with stills from the picture and hilarious descriptions of the items the characters are wearing.

This parody of commercialism is extremely well written, with a style and humor that reflects well upon the film. Such as: "Eyeglasses inspired by the style favored by Pol Pot during his reign of terror."

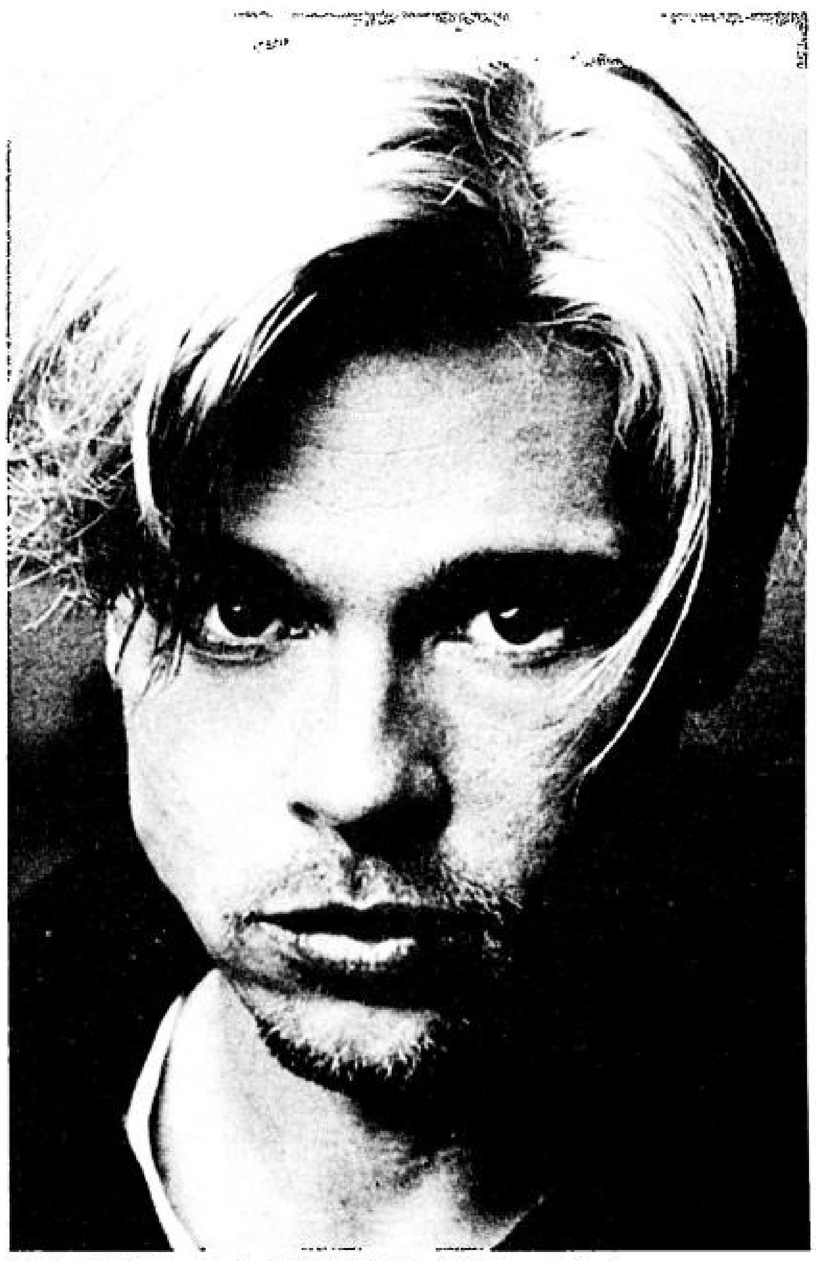
Also included in the advertising section are fake public service announcements starring Pitt and Norton. These have to be seen to be believed.

The verdict

Today's quiz question is: Do I like and recommend this DVD? Write in and win a free trip to Paris.

That was a joke, people. If anyone tries to hold me to that, I'll hire the lawyers Pepsi used for that whole "349" thing.

No movie is perfect, and this one is no exception. But the originality and craft displayed in this film is an exception, and it is admirable that the same care and treatment was lavished on the DVD package.



'SUN GOD' Brad is in "Fight Club" with Edward Norton.

Fall in 'Love' . . .

(From page A29)

major achievement. Add Freestyle, and you have the music industry's version of a casting coup."

The first of two CDs contains 12 tracks. The album opens with "My Love" (Zsa Zsa, Freestyle and Lani), followed by the rousing dance hits, "Best of My Love" and "Got to be Real."

Other outstanding cuts in the first CD are Freestyle's "OPM Medley," Lani and Freestyle's rendition of the hit "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang," and Lani's powerful Whitney Houston medley. Lani also delivers a touching version of the jazz ballad "Loving You."

Lani and Zsa-Zsa join each other in a duet of "When You Believe" before Zsa Zsa does her solo numbers: "I'm Outta Love" and "We're All Alone."

This is followed by the Zsa Zsa-Freestyle duet of "Incomplete," and a medley of some of today's most requested songs on FM radio.

The second CD has Zsa Zsa's Celine Dion medley and "Hiram," one of her biggest OPM hits. Lani contributed "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" and a much-applauded "Tribute to Divas" featuring "Dito Ba," "Kahit Na," "Wala na bang Pag-ibig," "Ikaw" and "Narito Ako."

The one-of-a-kind album from Viva Records is available at all record bars and outlets.

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4 VALENTINE - R 18 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	5 15 MINNUTES - R 18 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00	6 SPY KIDS - G 11:30, 1:20, 3:10, 5:00

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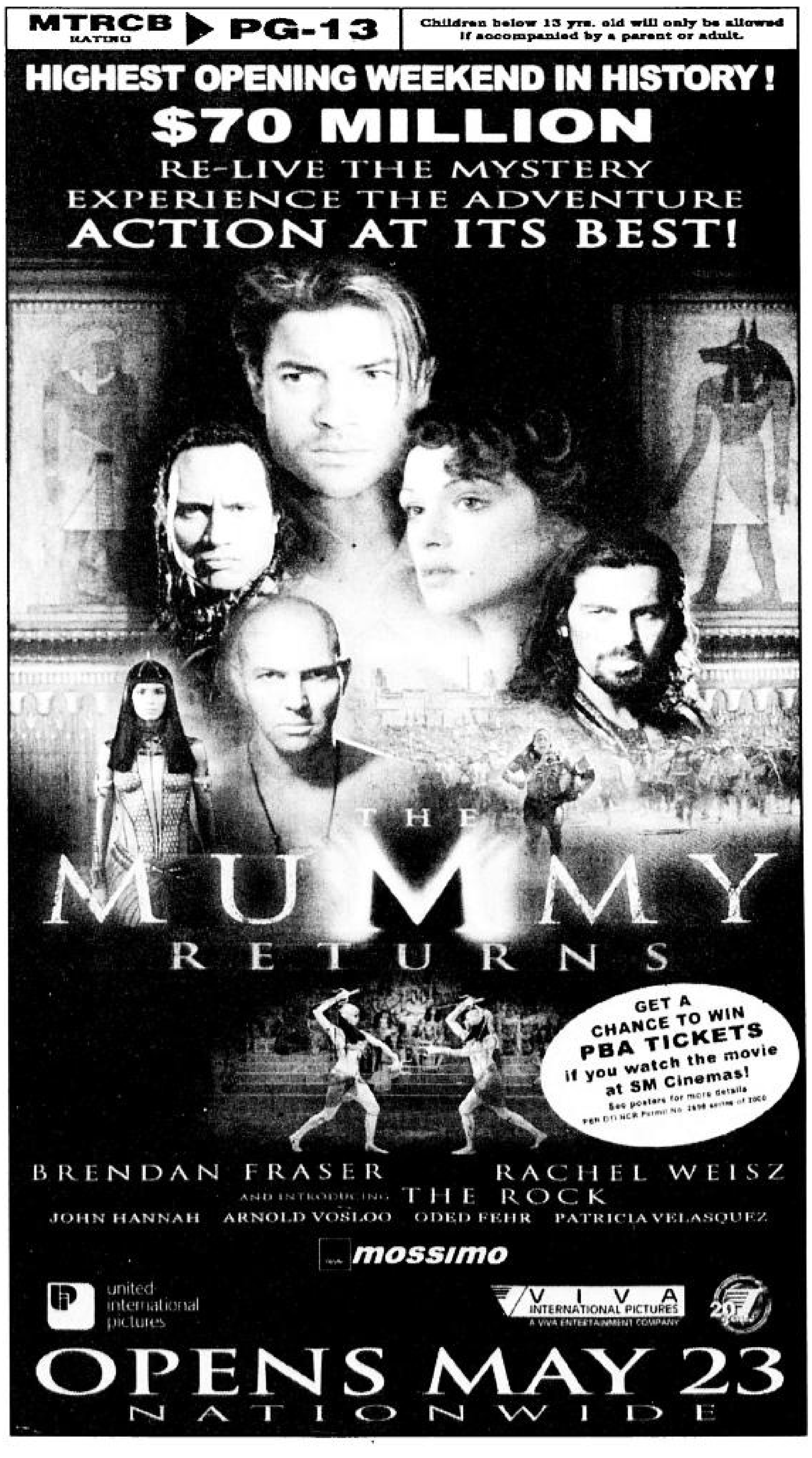

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Trust in tomorrow, surrender to today

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

FOR my mom's sake, the correct term to use when referring to the home's main bedroom is "master bedroom" and not the oft-repeated Pinoy version "master's bedroom."

My editor took the day off when I submitted my column with "master bedroom" correctly in place, but what I had written was changed into "master's."

I've been guilty of using this numerous times in the past, and I just want to be a dutiful daughter and prove to my mom that her corrective reminders, whether grammatical or even more substantive, are heeded. If you can set the small things right, then the bigger ones are bound to follow, right?

* * *

"Everything could have worked out here. All she had to do was let it. Really."

Those were the words of Larry, **Robert Downey Jr.**'s character on "Ally McBeal" in his closing argument about the merits of a case—of a woman not making partner in her law firm—that Ally's law firm had taken on, and which Larry had defended. This was a pivotal scene in last Tuesday's episode (8 p.m., RPN 9)

As is often the case in "Ally McBeal," prolific writer-producer **David Kelley** seamlessly weaves the courtroom exchanges with the personal dramas of his lead characters.

Downey's character **Larry** and **Calista Flockhart**'s Ally are embarking on a new romance that could just evolve into the real thing.

As usual, Ally is self-obsessed and worried about where the relationship is headed. In a conversation with Renee, her best friend, Ally ponders, "I know it's crazy but I'm just really afraid of the whole thing. Why?" To which Renee replies, with the wisdom only a best friend possesses, "Because for once in your life you have something really big to lose."

There are many Allys out there, creating problems when they should just go with the flow, constantly asking the "what-ifs," the "how-comes" and the "maybes." There are those who fail to embrace the happiness of the moment because they constantly fear the heartache that may result.

I don't advocate going into anything headlong without pondering the consequences. The fear is truly magnified when there's much at stake. How often does it happen when a person of real value is daring to enter your world?

But just like in the resolution of this episode of "Ally McBeal," there's a certain amount of apprehension that everyone in the first tentative steps of a new relationship should relinquish. As they say, sometimes you just trust in tomorrow and surrender to the feeling of today.

* * *

I've tried practically every Nokia phone in the market. My son **Josh** has managed to bite off the antenna of my 6150, pour a glass of water over my 8810, dunk my 6210 in a cup of Seattle's Best coffee, and drop my 8890, damaging the mouthpiece, which luckily was easily fixed by my purchase of a replacement part.

In other words I needed a Josh-friendly, Josh-proof phone. I found it in the 6250. I know, most people say it's so bulky and it looks like a remote control. But the signal is strong, and it's shock-proof. I demonstrated this to my friends by actually hurling the phone against my wall.

The screen is also very good, and there's a large font for convenient text messaging and reading. The memory is large enough to accommodate at least 50 text messages in the Inbox. The games are so much fun; I'm currently addicted to "Opposite," which is the computerized equivalent of the board game "Othello."

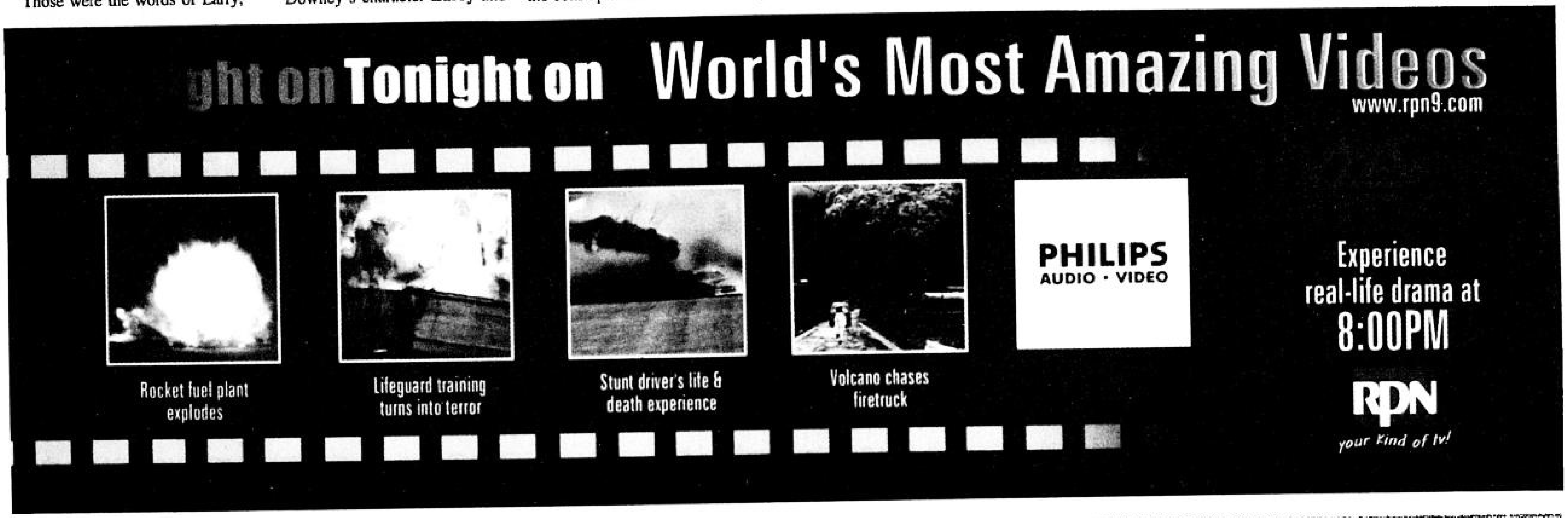
Josh has managed to spill some Royal Tru Orange on my dial pad, and after wiping it off, the number keys didn't freeze up or cause me any problems.

I now have two 6250s, one for my Globe and another for my Smart. After road-testing almost all the others, this model's definitely a keeper.

Knockout quartet in shows

THE SINGING comedy group Gladys & the Boxers with K continues to perk up the live entertainment scene with regular gigs at Soundstage in Cainta on Tuesdays, Chatterbox West Avenue on Wednesdays, JoeKher Concert Hall on Thursdays, Lite N Live on Fridays and Kampo West Avenue on Saturdays.

On May 21, the group will do a special show at Phenomena Disco along Timog Avenue in Quezon City. For bookings and reservations, call Backroom Inc. at 435-1108, 435-1120, 435-1098, 435-3808 or fax inquiries at 928-0717.



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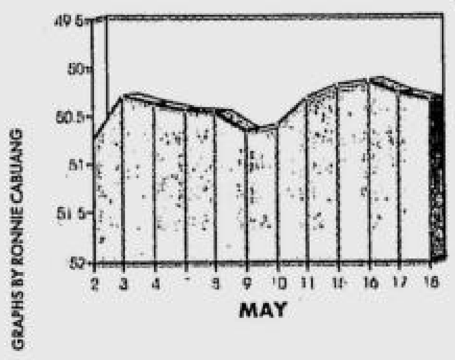

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May 18, 2001

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STOCK MARKET

Shares down

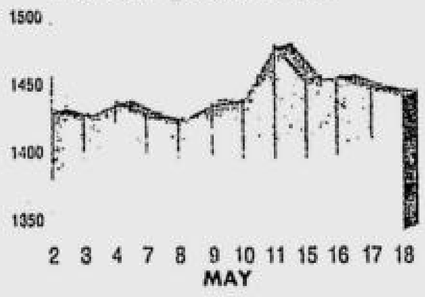
THE STOCK market closed slightly lower Friday on concerns about the administration's ability to gain control of the Senate, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 4.41 points, or 0.3 percent, to 1,448.62 after falling 0.6 percent Thursday to 1,453.03.

The broader All Shares Index lost a fractional 0.52 point to 764.30 after rising 6.91 points to 764.82 Thursday.

"Investors are hesitant to put money in stocks amid the seesaw battle between the administration and the opposition for control of Congress," said Henry Ong, vice president at KGI Securities Inc. AP

PSE Composite Index



(See stock market report on Page B6)

PLDT woos Japan phone giant to invest in Smart

By Doris C. Dumlao

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. is negotiating with Japan's top mobile operator NTT DoCoMo Inc. for a strategic investment in PLDT's cellular phone subsidiary, Smart Communications Inc.

Sources told the INQUIRER that the Japanese company, a subsidiary of former state telecom monopoly Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. (NTT), had started conducting a due diligence audit of Smart.

PLDT has tapped Dutch investment bank ABN Amro to handle the prospective deal with NTT, which, in effect, would be an expansion of the existing strategic partnership between the two companies.

NTT now holds a 15-percent interest in PLDT while the single biggest shareholder, First Pacific Co. Ltd. of Hong Kong, controls 24.6 percent.

The sources said PLDT's efforts to get NTT DoCoMo into Smart were aimed at cementing the cellular phone company's leadership in the local market. The prospective buy-in deal is also expected to help boost Smart's wireless and broadband capability amid stiff competition posed by rival Globe Telecoms, which has an existing tie-up with two foreign partners, Singapore Telecom International and Deutsche Telekom.

The talks between PLDT and the Japanese company were confirmed in separate interviews with key PLDT officials, who, however, stressed that the due diligence audit has yet to be completed. One of the PLDT officials said the emerging deal would bring brighter prospects for the PLDT group, whose mobile phone ventures now comprise 31.8 percent of its entire business.

NTT DoCoMo, a leader in wireless technology, is Japan's largest company by market capitalization. It has been the best performer among telecom stocks worldwide since the beginning of the year.

The PLDT official explained the matter of how big a stake NTT DoCoMo would acquire has yet to be firmed up but he added it would not exceed the 40 percent foreign ownership limit set by the Constitution for utility companies.

Plans for the listing of Smart, according to the official, are also on track and that it will be pursued after the deal with NTT DoCoMo is finalized.

"The IPO will come after the entry of the foreign investor. We'd also like to give them the chance to make the most out of their investment in Smart," the official said.

PLDT's valuation of Smart stood at P37.9 billion as of last year, but analysts said it could be much bigger now.

Rival Globe Telecoms, for its part, is spending $750 million this year alone to expand its network and beef up its infrastructure.

For its part, PLDT's revenues come largely from its wireless units, especially Smart. Combined with another wireless unit Pilipino Telephone Corp. (Piltel), the group now boasts of a subscriber base of 4.2 million, of which Smart accounts for 83 percent.

In the first quarter, PLDT posted P294 million in profits on the back of a 116-percent gain in Smart's net earnings and the 30-percent rise in its traditional local network. The tremendous growth in PLDT's wireless business has made it a consistent favorite among foreign and local brokerage houses.

"The success of last year's investments in subscriber base buildup and promotions for Smart spelled the difference for PLDT this year thus far. Smart's subscriber base grew 155 percent to 3.49 million, overshadowing sister company Piltel's subscriber gains of nearly 54 percent," according to ATR Kim Eng Securities.

"The initiatives that PLDT had taken in the past two years, shifting its orientation toward the more dynamic wireless voice and data and the Internet/e-commerce arena seem to have started bearing fruit," he said.

However, the brokerage house said publicly listed Piltel continued to be a drag in PLDT's portfolio, although it expected a resolution and implementation this year of its debt restructuring agreement with creditors, supplier Marubeni Corp. and most convertible bondholders.

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Red tape ties down election results

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

THE MADDENING delay in coming out with the final results of last week's elections is the result of too much government red tape. It is as simple as that.

My pocket dictionary defines red tape as "official routine or procedure marked by excessive complexity which results in delay or inaction." The term comes from the red tape that used to bind legal documents in England.

Casting your ballot is simple enough. But, when there are over 36 million registered voters, it is to be expected that some will not be able to vote for one reason or another. I think that one-tenth of one percent of total voters, or 36,000, should be a tolerable limit. So, let's forget the finger pointing over disenfranchisement of some voters. They are casualties of war.

It is the counting and canvassing that is tied down with red tape. After the precinct closes, it takes over an hour to verify the number of ballots against the stubs, and to fill up the tally sheets with the names of local candidates and set them up on the boards. Reading and sometimes interpreting the ballots and tabulating the votes on the tally sheets takes hours. In my precinct, where the turnout was only 60 percent, it took over four hours to read and tabulate 122 ballots. Then the preparation of the reports, and putting away all the paraphernalia, take another hour at least.

The ballot box and the reports tucked in it are brought to the municipio or city hall for the first stage of canvass, which is really nothing but consolidating the results of the precincts. Turning over the ballot box to the city treasurer is visually bedlam. I remember helping the teachers in my precinct bring the ballot box to the city hall several elections ago. It took hours to turn over the box because there was only one fellow accepting it.

In spite of the red tape, canvassing should be easy. In my hometown Naga City, with voting population of about 60,000, with the farthest barangay up in the foothills of Mt. Isarog 15 kilometers from downtown, the official city hall canvass results are on the early morning news the following day. The Camarines Sur provincial capitol canvass, which consolidates the results from two cities and 35 towns, a few of which can only be reached by sea, is over in a week.

The provincial results are what the Comelec has been waiting for a week. I suggest the commissioners should not hold their breath.

The system, already complex as it is, is short-circuited by the usual unsavory characters who are up to no good. Something was terribly wrong when the last ballot boxes arrived at the Makati City Hall almost 24 hours after the precincts closed, the farthest precinct cannot be more than a kilometer away. Or when canvassing at Caloocan City started four days after election day under full Marine guard. Or when a Comelec official simply disappears.

The system for counting, tabulating, and canvassing votes in last week's elections was the same system already in use when I cast my first ballot in 1946. And that year, the system was already antiquated, having been carried over from before World War II. But if there was no mess in 1946, it was because the voting population then was probably less than 5 million. Today, it is over 36 million.

The system is not only antiquated. It is simply overloaded. The more precincts there are, the more mistakes will he committed. Then, the quality of work varies understandably from precinct to precinct. For Namfrel's precious sixth copy (more red tape, why is it necessary to have so many copies?) of the reports to be legible, every clerk must exert a certain minimum pressure with his ballpoint pen.

Will modernization (meaning computerization) solve the problem? Of course, it will. It will certainly cut the red tape. But forget impeaching Comelec. The mess was built into the system. There was little anybody could do about it.

But, maybe, instead of looking at the Americans for the solution, maybe we should look at the Russians. The Russian Federation spans over six time zones, compared to the Americans' four. Yet, the Russians, who are not really used to holding elections, can come up with the results much faster than the Americans.

Let's face it, even if the system will be fully computerized, we cannot totally clean up the mess. Our elections will continue to validate Murphy's Law: If something can go wrong, it will.

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INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Top 10 commercial banks by deposits

(1st quarter 2001, in billion pesos)

Rank	Commercial Banks	Q1'01	Q4'00	% Change
1	Metropolitan Bank & Trust company	297.1	286.0	3.9
2	Bank of the Philippine Islands	260.7	250.8	3.9
3	Landbank	152.1	148.5	2.4
4	Equitable-PCI Bank	136.4	176.6	-22.7
5	Citibank	130.7	131.5	-0.6
6	Philippine National Bank	120.8	123.4	-2.1
7	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	96.4	93.8	2.8
8	United Coconut Planters Bank	89.4	86.0	3.9
9	Allied Bank	73.4	70.6	4.1
10	Chinabank	52.4	46.3	13.2

Source: Published statements of condition and BSP

TOTAL deposits in the first quarter 2001 of the top 10 banks in the country were 0.2 percent lower compared to last year's fourth quarter figures. Among the top 10 banks in the first quarter, EquitablePCI Bank suffered the biggest drop in total deposits at 22.7 percent, making it lose the third spot in the top 10. Chinabank had the highest increase at 13.2 percent, enabling it to make it in the top 10. Out of the top 10 list in the first quarter was Banco de Oro (No.11) whose deposits shrunk by 8.5 percent. Metrobank and BPI managed to keep the No. 1 and No. 2 posts, respectively.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Highest 10 non-performing loan ratios among commercial banks* (1st quarter 2001)

Rank Q4	Rank Q3	Commercial Banks	NPL ratio (in %) Q1'01	NPL ratio (in %) Q4'00	NPL amount (in billion pesos) Q1	NPL amount (in billion pesos) Q4
1	1	United Overseas Bank	56.60	54.61	4.1	4.0
2	2	Philippine National Bank	40.00	39.00	40.3	39.6
3	3	TA Bank of the Philippines	28.25	28.29	0.3	0.3
4	4	Bank of Commerce	26.90	26.52	3.2	3.3
5	5	Landbank	24.60	24.47	29.4	29.5
6	11	Prudential Bank	22.05	19.46	4.5	0.4
7	7	Allied Bank	21.96	20.56	9.9	9.5
8	8	Global Bank	20.86	20.50	7.4	7.2
9	6	Bangkok Bank	20.27	21.38	0.4	5.1
10	9	Philippine Bank of Communications	19.99	19.75	4.8	0.7

* Does not include Al-Amanah Islamic Bank: NPL ratio = 33%; NPL amount=P 8.1 million

Source: Published statements of condition and BSP

THE NON-PERFORMING loan ratios of most commercial banks rose last quarter. United Overseas Bank again topped the list with its ratio moving up by almost 2 percentage points. PNB which ranked second in terms of ratio, had the highest NPL amount among the commercial banks at P40.3 million.

Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research

Camacho's insider information

COCKTALES

By Victor C. Agustin

IN her first State of the Nation Address delivered in Congress in 1986, President Aquino took the unprecedented move to denounce one American bank, Bankers Trust, among a syndicate of foreign creditor banks for subjecting the newly restored democratic government to the same credit wringer that it had applied on the autocratic Marcos regime.

The tone of the foreign creditor banks, recalled retired Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, who was a deputy central bank governor then, may be summarized by the contemptuous statement made by one high-ranking American banker during a typical tough round of debt renegotiations: "The trouble with you Filipinos is that you spend money like a drunken sailor."

Outside of the small circle of debt negotiators, little was known of the fact that there was a young Filipino banker, not barely 30 at that time, who was on top of Bankers Trust Manila operations during the debt crisis years of 1983-1986, representing the bank in the restructuring negotiations with both the Philippine government and specific private sector borrowers.

The banker was Jose Isidro Camacho, who 15 years hence, now finds himself on the other side of the negotiating table, holding the beggar's bowl, as the Macapagal-Arroyo administration's new finance secretary.

His appointment widely hailed by the financial community, Camacho is expected to bring an insider's insight on how Manila could optimize whatever little is left of the country's credit line with the foreign financial institutions.

He should be. After all, as originator, executor and/or advisor, Camacho and his bank presided over the multibillion-dollar borrowing sprees by the country's blue-chip companies during the go-go Ramos years, loans a number of them had unfortunately gone sour.

Edsa III at Fort Boni

FRIDAY'S opening of the S&R Price Smart shopping warehouse in Fort Bonifacio was mobbed by shoppers that store guards had to periodically close the entrance doors to prevent dangerous overcrowding.

Even Miriam Defensor-Santiago, panting and sweating heavily from the heat despite the air-conditioning, joined the crazed shoppers amid the blazing afternoon sun.

It was like Edsa III, Shoppers' Revenge.

Within minutes of opening, the store had already run short of shopping carts that barong-clad guards had to ask customers to line up and wait for returned carts to prevent scuffles, according to one certified shopping addict.

Majority of the shoppers looked, spoke, and smelled middle-class; a large number, mainly women and quite a few men, looked office-types and executives that you ask yourself, don't they have any work?

A squad of American S&R Price Smart expats were wide-eyed at their unbelievable luck as they surveyed the scene.

The store, which looked like any typical warehouse clubs that dot the US suburbia, carried mostly competitively priced, American-branded goods.

For instance, stacks of made-in-Panama khaki pants go for P750 each, or about $15 each, the same price as you would pay in close-out shops and discount stores in New York and New Jersey.

Compact discs, like Andrea Bocelli's Sacred Arias, are priced at P410/each, max.

The frozen section carried Tyson chicken at P75/1.1 kilo; nearby a section of red Globe grapes, at P90 a kilo, was being decimated one by one by *tikims*.

As in Makro, the Ayala-Henry Sy-Dutch venture, the downside to shopping at S&R Price Smart is that shoppers must be prepared to waste about half an hour at the checkout counter, especially on weekends and paydays.

The upside is that there is free ample parking, a relief to the P20-P30 parking fee being gouged by the malls.

Price Smart's shopping aisles are wide, the price tags are legible and literate, the store is clean and air-conditioned, the shopping carts are new, there is an in-store bakery that provides piping hot munchies, taken together a revolutionary leap from the *palengkes* that mothers grew up with.

(This is an aside, but did you notice how the free-based supermarket Shop Wise is configured the same way?)

Short takes

- THE RED and blue Ecuriel helicopter of JV Ejercito being used in Mindanao by Jimpol and his gang used to be owned by restaurateur VicVic Villavicencio.
- THE RESIGNATION of Gregorio Yu as president of Belle Resources will only take effect on June 15, although the former Hong Kong-based investment banker has effectively gone on terminal leave.

Heard through the grapevine

THE WEBSITE of the US Central Intelligence Agency, specifically in The World Factbook page prepared by the Directorate of Intelligence, misspelled the names of our labor secretary as Patricia Santo "Thomas" and our transportation secretary as "Panteleon" Alvarez.

The country brief on the Philippines, which is updated as in any other country every January, still lists Joseph Ejercito Estrada as president. Ditto with the State Department's, which was last updated October 2000.

Incidentally, the head of the Philippine desk at the State Department is a Filipino-American, whose parents were migrants from Pangasinan.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

NO MORE PRIVATE PLACEMENT

RP to issue bonds worth $700M

THE MACAPAGAL administration starts a borrowing binge late next month through a "deal roadshow" in the United States, Japan and Europe to raise some $500 million to $700 million.

The plan is to issue $500 million to $700 million worth of sovereign bonds in a market that will offer the most attractive rates.

Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong, the newly designated officer-in-charge of the DOF, said the national government had also decided to defer indefinitely a plan to borrow as much as $200 million from a foreign investment bank this month.

"We will hold a deal roadshow in the US, Japan and Europe next month once the new Finance Secretary (Isidro Camacho) has assumed his post," said Amatong.

The deal roadshow, said Amatong, might be handled by the investment banks that had offered their services during the early days of the Macapagal administration. These include JP Morgan Chase and Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

"The original plan was to do a no-deal roadshow and simply promote the country. But this time, we will do a deal roadshow that will cover everything," said Amatong.

She, however, said the DOF would continue evaluating the offers submitted by other investment banks. The roadshow manager often ends up as a deal underwriter as well.

Camacho, who was recently named to replace Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo (who was appointed executive secretary), said he would assume his new post at the Department of Finance by mid-June.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza has confirmed that the government had put on hold a plan to borrow $200 million through a private placement with a foreign bank.

"There will be no private placement for now. We have to assess the market condition. We are waiting for the spreads on (RP debt papers) to tighten and go back to the prevailing levels before the May 1 crisis," said Edeza who clarified that the borrowing was merely postponed and not cancelled.

Edeza, however, added that if the government would be able to raise sufficient funds through the roadshow, the government might consider canceling the planned private placement.

Although the government is targeting to raise between $500 to $700 million from the bond float next month, Amatong said the amount might be raised if the demand for RP bonds would be strong.

"If demand is up, we will issue more (bonds). We will do it in the market that will show the most interest and offer the most attractive rates," said the finance undersecretary.

Amatong said that only after a series of roadshows could the government decide where to issue the bonds.

Bangko Sentral seen to roll over Equitable loan

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas said it was willing to rollover the remaining unpaid portion of Equitable PCI Bank's P30-billion emergency loan until the end of the year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said the bank had repeatedly indicated its desire to settle its remaining loan, which industry sources said range from P15 to P25 billion, rather than ask the central bank for a five-year restructuring.

The BSP chief said the central bank was willing to extend the Equitable PCI loan by another three to six months or until the end of the year.

The Monetary Board, said Buenaventura, was still waiting for Equitable PCI's action plan. The plan must indicate whether it will ask the BSP to restructure the loan or if it will ask its shareholders to infuse into the bank P5 billion to P10 billion in fresh capital.

Buenaventura said the change in the bank management appeared to be working favorably for the bank as old depositors continued to come back on top of new accounts that have been coming in.

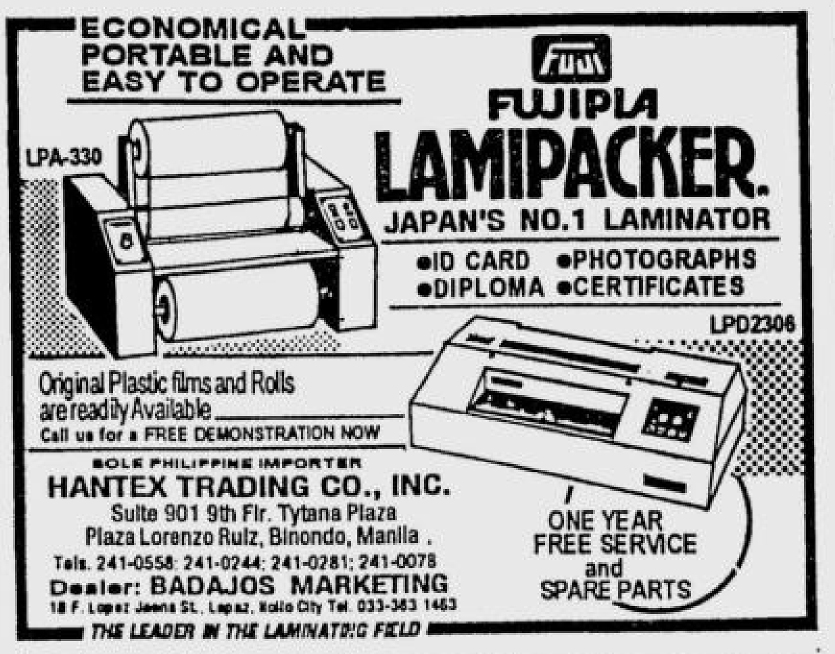
The country's third largest lender, however, reported a significant loss in the first quarter largely due to interest charges on its loans, particularly with the BSP.

Buenaventura explained that the scenario was expected after Equitable PCI lost deposits that carried only about 4 percent in interest payment as opposed to a loan from the BSP that carried 91-day Treasury bill rate plus three percentage points.

Heavy withdrawals experienced by the bank from late last year to early this year prompted Equitable PCI to run to the BSP for a P30-billion emergency assistance.

Depositors of Equitable PCI withdrew their money from the bank after it was dragged into the "Juetengate" scandal that involved former President Estrada.

The Go family owns 31 percent of Equitable PCI but the government, with the combined 25 percent of Social Security System and the 12 percent of Government Service Insurance System, ends up owning a bigger block of the bank.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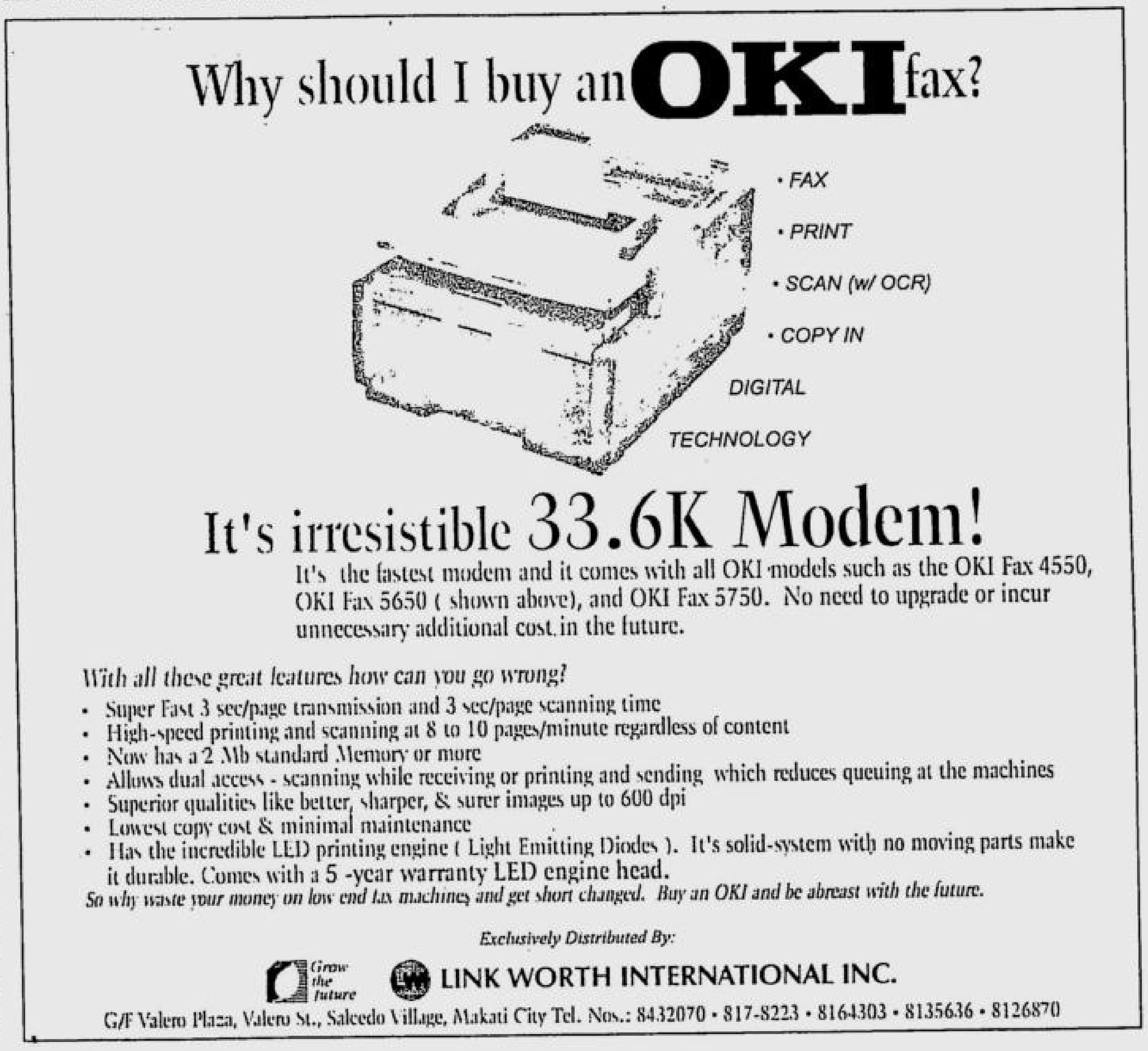
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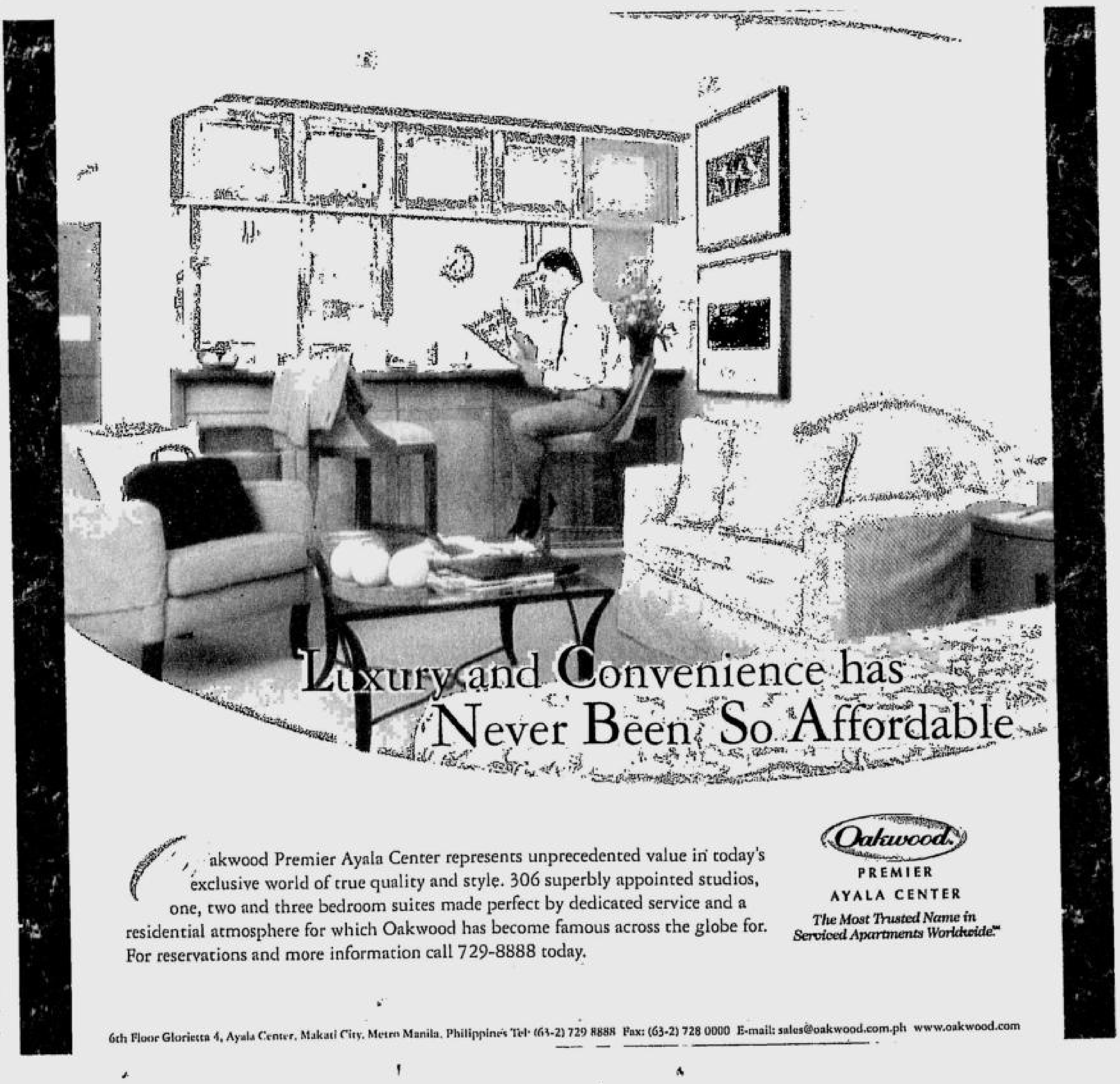
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Gov't preparing new perks for Clark, Subic

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

A TASK force led by the Department of Trade and Industry will draw up a new set of incentives package to facilitate the integration and development of the former American military bases in Subic and Clark.

Based on the memorandum of understanding creating the Subic-Clark Alliance for Development (Scad) program, the DTI-led task force would "create a new investment incentive package with the least amount of bureaucratic red tape and sufficient flexibility for implementation."

Although the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and the Clark Development Corp. have their own portfolio of fiscal perks, the DTI felt this would not be enough to attract deep-pocketed foreign investors who are needed to carry out the ambitious project.

The Scad project aims to jumpstart the development of Subic and Clark as a regional transshipment hub by developing a superhighway to cut travel time between the two former military bases and building world-class seaport and airport facilities. Subic and Clark have been converted into economic zones since the American forces left them in the early 1990s but they have yet to reach their full potential.

The task force is currently awaiting an executive order by President Macapagal-Arroyo that will give stability to the project by clearly mandating the SBMA, CDC and BCDA to adhere and implement programs adopted by the body.

The Scad task force will be chaired by the DTI and composed of the SBMA, CDC, Bases Conversion Development Authority, and Office of the Government Corporate Counsel.

Aside from incentives, the task force will set the development strategy for Subic and Clark as well as lay down the financial program to bankroll the project. SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo had revealed plans to create a super fund worth between $3 billion and $5 billion from the securitization of assets of the Subic naval and Clark air bases.

SBMA and BCDA will issue securities backed up by future revenues from leasehold rights, development and investment income from the former American bases. Payumo estimated that Subic has $10 billion worth of assets while Clark has $5 billion that can be leveraged with the issuance of asset backed securities.

The task force has limited the Scad project's scope to cover only the areas in the respective corridors of Clark and Subic and those along the proposed superhighway in order to avoid overlapping with areas covered by the Presidential Commission on Central Luzon Growth Corridor.

AEV allots ₱1B for expansion

By Doris C. Dumlao

CEBU-BASED Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. is mapping out a strategy to rationalize under-performing assets and concentrate on its core businesses of power generation, power distribution and banking.

AEV president Jon Ramon Aboitiz told the company's stockholders last week that the company would continue to work toward improving its balance sheets.

He said the company had earmarked over P1 billion to expand core businesses this year. Any fund-raising activity this year, he stressed, would be non-dilutive to stockholders.

Company EVP and COO Erramon Aboitiz stressed that the company was in good position to benefit from "opportunities that might cross its path."

Despite the difficult environment in 2000, AEV posted a net income after tax of P1.2 billion, almost the same level registered in the previous year.

"We will continue to build on our competencies and prudently expand our core businesses. We will also not lose sight of our under-performing assets and dedicate the required attention to steer them back to profitability or take appropriate steps to divest of them where possible," Aboitiz said.

While the management was pleased with the performance of various subsidiaries such as the power and banking interests, there are some assets that failed to meet expectations such as Philippine Fast Ferry Corp. (PFFC), which registered a 20-percent decline in passenger volume and a loss of P24 million.

"Management is assessing various restructuring alternatives to steer the company to profitability," he said.

The group's power businesses remained its top revenue earner, pumping in P766 million or 68 percent of its total earnings last year, followed by the banking group, which accounted for 25 percent or P285 million.

The remaining 7 percent or P76 million came from portfolio investments.

Export industry needs new strategy

THE PHILIPPINE export industry faces its biggest challenge in close to a decade this year as its leaders and key men in supporting government agencies begin to review and revise the export development plan which is due to expire by the end of this year.

The challenge is how to keep the momentum of growth from sliding to a stop at a time when the high growth performance of major products led by electronics has started to slow down. Strategies that proved effective in fuelling double-digit growth rates from 1992 to 1999 and had still pulled off an 8.69 percent growth last year may no longer work.

Exports for the first three months of the year have raised the warning signal. Total shipments for the first quarter hauled in $8.56 billion, down by one half of one percent of the total exports in the same period last year of $8.6 billion.

At first blush, the decline looks marginal. But seen in the light of an average growth rate of 18 percent in eight straight years and still close to 10 percent in the year 2000, it indicates one thing. After defying the roller coaster ride followed by the rest of the domestic economy, the sector is showing signs it is reaching a plateau.

Beginning of downtrend

If one looks at the breakdown of the latest figures collected by the National Statistics Office, he would come to the realization that this might be the beginning of a new, downward trend. Two out of the three top performers, electronics and machine parts, have grown minimally. Garments made up where the two other big industries screeched almost to a halt.

All other industries from processed and fresh food to leather goods, particularly those that use local raw materials, have performed creditably with the exception of furniture and jewelry, which shrunk.

As captains of the export sector take a closer look at the facts and figures, they are beginning to see some weaknesses. For one, although Philippine exports have drastically changed for the past couple of decades from raw materials like logs, copper concentrate, raw sugar and copra, to manufactured goods and processed and finished products—the industry's base has remained thin.

The unprecedented growth of the export of electronics products, fuelled by heavy investments by multinationals, has become a weakness. As demand in the United States and Japan retreats, the overall performance of Philippine exports, of which more than half is derived from electronics, gets eroded at a dizzying speed.

Arresting the decline

Three ways of arresting the decline have been pinpointed. One is for the Philippines to aggressively open up or expand markets in East Asia, the Muslim nations in the Middle East and the rest of mainland Asia and Australia

What is still lacking is up-to-date and accurate market intelligence or the fastest way of getting the correct information on what products are in demand in these countries at a given time and how to reach that market ahead of the opposition.

The second strategy is to more aggressively promote new and neglected products in markets where the demand remains greatly untapped or niches can be established.

With accurate information from the market and the capacity of local exporters known, new goods can be developed faster while new variations to existing exports may get produced and innovations introduced.

The dictum of tailoring goods to the needs of the market is becoming urgently necessary.

Tapping new potentials

Third, taking full advantage of the little tapped potentials of exporting services in different modes recognized by the world Trade Organization (WTO), especially tourism, information technology, animation and professional services like engineering, auditing and management, where Filipinos excel.

On top of these, export leaders have seen the logic of grouping interrelated industries into clusters as proven in a few pilot areas so that they can fight rivals from other competing nations as a team bound for the business Olympics, instead of as individual firms, out for personal profits.

The challenge is made more interesting in that, the next export plan must be practical enough to be put into workable actions the moment it gets finalized. *Philexport News & Features*

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SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE
May 24, 2001
THEME: S.W.O.T. ANALYSIS OF THE INDUSTRY
1:30 pm Roundtable Discussion
1:45 pm Industry Strengths
2:00 pm Industry Weaknesses
2:30 pm Industry Opportunities
2:45 pm Industry Threats /Challenges
3:00 pm Wrap up and Open Forum

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS
May 24, 2001 (Thursday)
11:00-12:00nn "Integrating Your Business Through the Internet" by: Eastern Telecoms
1:00-2:00pm "TNT Global Logistics Solutions-Storapart" by: TNT International
2:00-3:00pm "Internet Traffic Management Solutions" by: Leverage Systems Technology
3:00-3:30pm "Content Distribution & Delivery Network (Streaming Technology)" by: Infolibria c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Critical Power Protection Systems & Solutions" by: MGE-Ups Systems Phils. Inc.
4:00-4:30pm "Building Futures with NetworkPlace" by: Getronics
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "Open Software & Cabling Systems" by: Automation& Security Inc.
6:00-6:30pm "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 25, 2001 (Friday)
10:00-11:00am Ascendas: "Asia's Foremost Business Space Solutions Provider is Here in the Philippines" by: Acendas (Phils.) Corp./JTC
10:30-11:00am "Internet Traffic Management & Content Delivery Network" by: F5 Networks c/o Intex Telecoms Systems
11:00-12:00nn "Redundant Parallel Architecture Fact or Fiction!" by: Victron
11:30-12:00nn "Intelliwhere" (Geo-Space & Location-Space In Fixed & Wireless Industry: Multi-Dimensional Solutions) by: Intergraph Systems Sout-East Asia Pte. Ltd. (IGSEA)
12:00-1:00pm "Overcoming Barriers of Rural Telephony" by: Q-Telecel
1:00-1:30pm "Fiber Optic & Copper Cable Splice Cases" by: Preformed Line Products
1:00-2:00pm "e-Pay: The Prepaid Solutions" by: E-Pay Asia Philippines
2:00-2:30pm "Lyncole XIT Grounding Systems" by: Globaltek
2:00-3:00pm "E-conference" by: SolidVideo Corporation
3:00-3:30pm "iPlanet" by: Sun Microsystems
3:00-4:00pm "Cabling Solutions for the Future" by: Brand Rex (Microwarehouse)
3:30-4:00pm by: Sun Microsystems
4:00-4:30pm "Deployment of Fiber Infrastructure for Optimum Network" (Flexibility in High Capacity Backbone & Access Networks) by: Tyco Electronics Phils., Inc
4:00-5:00pm "Cost Effective Interactive White Board" by: Board Meeting Inc.
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
5:00-6:00pm "The Web Crisis Today" by: On-Line
6:00-6:30am "Buy USA.com" by: U.S. Commercial Service

May 26, 2001 (Saturday)
10:00-11:00pm "High Availability DC Solutions for your Business Needs" by: American Power Conversion
11:00-12:00nn "What Should I Know About IBOC" (In-Bond on-Channel AM/FM Digital Audio Broadcasting) by: Active Comm
1:00-1:30pm by: Kinetic Solutions
1:00-2:00pm "Communication Solution through Technology" by: DB International
2:00-2:30pm by: Molex Premise Networks
2:00-3:00pm "Work & Play with AV" by: Audio Visual Driver
3:00-3:30pm by: Porta Systems
3:00-4:00pm "Wireless Broadband: Powering the Future of Data Communication" by: Meridian Telecom
4:00-4:30pm by: Wireless Inc
4:00-5:00pm "Alert Me Now! Your Messaging Companion" by: 25*8
5:00-5:30pm by: IBM Philippines
6:00-6:30pm "Buy USA.com" by U.S. Commercial Service

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Napocor to shut down 3 plants by end-2001

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. hopes to save at least $2 million a month by shutting down at least three oil-fired power plant complexes in Luzon within the year.

These plants are the Sucat, Malaya and the Hopewell power plants that are all located in Metro Manila.

Asisclo T. Gonzaga, Napocor senior vice president and chief operating officer, said Napocor would stop operating the old Sucat plants by October this year as the power stations were no longer efficient.

Commissioned between 1968 and 1972, the four-generator Sucat complex in Parañaque City currently generates 250 megawatts of electricity, only 26 percent of its original generating capacity of 950 mw.

The Malaya complex, on the other hand, was put on "standby." This means that its two generations would be operated only in cases of emergency such as a power shortage.

The bunker fuel-fed Malaya generators in Pililla, Rizal have a total generating capacity of 650 mw.

On the other hand, Gonzaga said Napocor was in talks with Mirant Philippines (formerly Southern Energy) regarding the waiver of termination fees, which will pave the way for shutting down the operations of the Hopewell complex in Navotas.

The two diesel-fired Hopewell plants, with a combined generating capacity of 310 mw, were put up under a build-operate-transfer contract between Mirant and Napocor.

"We (hope to) save millions of dollars in termination fees (that's why) we are discussing with Mirant," the COO said.

He also said that the cash-strapped power firm expects to shut down the Malaya power plants also by October.

The year to come

ON THE MONEY

John Mangun

THE DAILY rush to the newspapers and TV channels has made the election numbers more exciting than the lotto numbers. As of this writing, it appears that there will definitely be an opposition group in the Senate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has unquestionably shown character and even courage in some of her decisions. The visit to former President Joseph Estrada and her reaching out to those who consider themselves disenfranchised from the mainstream are high on that list.

Now we will all wait and see how she handles a divided and potentially divisive legislature. The next two months will be the acid test of her ability to be a good president. We wish her well for all of our sakes.

Wanting to step back from the immediate concerns we all have, I want to look at some longer term developments that will have a positive effect on our economy over the next 12 months.

We tend, too often in my opinion, to believe that only the government has the ability to make the necessary changes to bolster our national and personal prosperity.

However, no man is an island and I believe that we are going to be "changed" by other events and circumstances beyond the Palace and the hallowed halls of Congress.

Oil prices

I wrote last year that I felt that oil prices would see a dramatic reduction due to increased world supply. I felt that under the Bush administration, economic sanctions against Iraq would be lifted. I also wrote that last year's increase in crude oil prices was in anticipation of that lifting so the oil-producing nations could make a few fast bucks before prices drop.

Last week, Britain proposed a major policy shift at the United Nations. Simply, Iraq will be allowed to buy virtually any non-military goods freely in the open market. Of course, if you are going to let them buy things, you have to allow them to make money to pay for what they want. Therefore, very soon, Iraqi oil wells will start flowing huge supplies of crude oil, bringing prices way down. I predict crude oil prices will drop a minimum of 20 percent by this time next year. Further, the Bush administration intends to do everything that it can to increase US oil production.

Along that same line, the Philippines will enter a new energy era. Barely mentioned and little examined by the local press, the Malampaya natural gas field will come on line by this October. The reserves from this first project are substantial. The potential for even greater reserves from additional drilling activity is immense.

Natural gas

At first, the natural gas will be used to fuel two new power plants. Eventually, over the next few years, we will see a significant change in the mix between foreign purchased fuel and that obtained from local sources. This is a big deal.

Having worked raising money for the oil and gas industry for several years back in the late 1970s, I know what that industry is like. At first, it is very difficult to raise money to drill. No one wants to take the risks of being the first.

But once the money starts flowing from existing wells, then everyone wants to get on board. There is no question that the seas off northern Palawan have a great and rich potential. Just ask the Chinese why they are so interested in stealing the Spratlys from us.

Interest rate cuts in the US have been too little, too late, but only for the short term. Coupled with the tax reduction, that economy is going to be even stronger a year from now than it was a year ago. The bottom has not been reached yet. However, it will come roaring back.

It is interesting to see the opposition Democrats rant and rave and then fall in line behind the new President. Let's hope that happens here. The reason they are falling in line is that Bush's economic proposals are sound. Let's hope that happens here also.

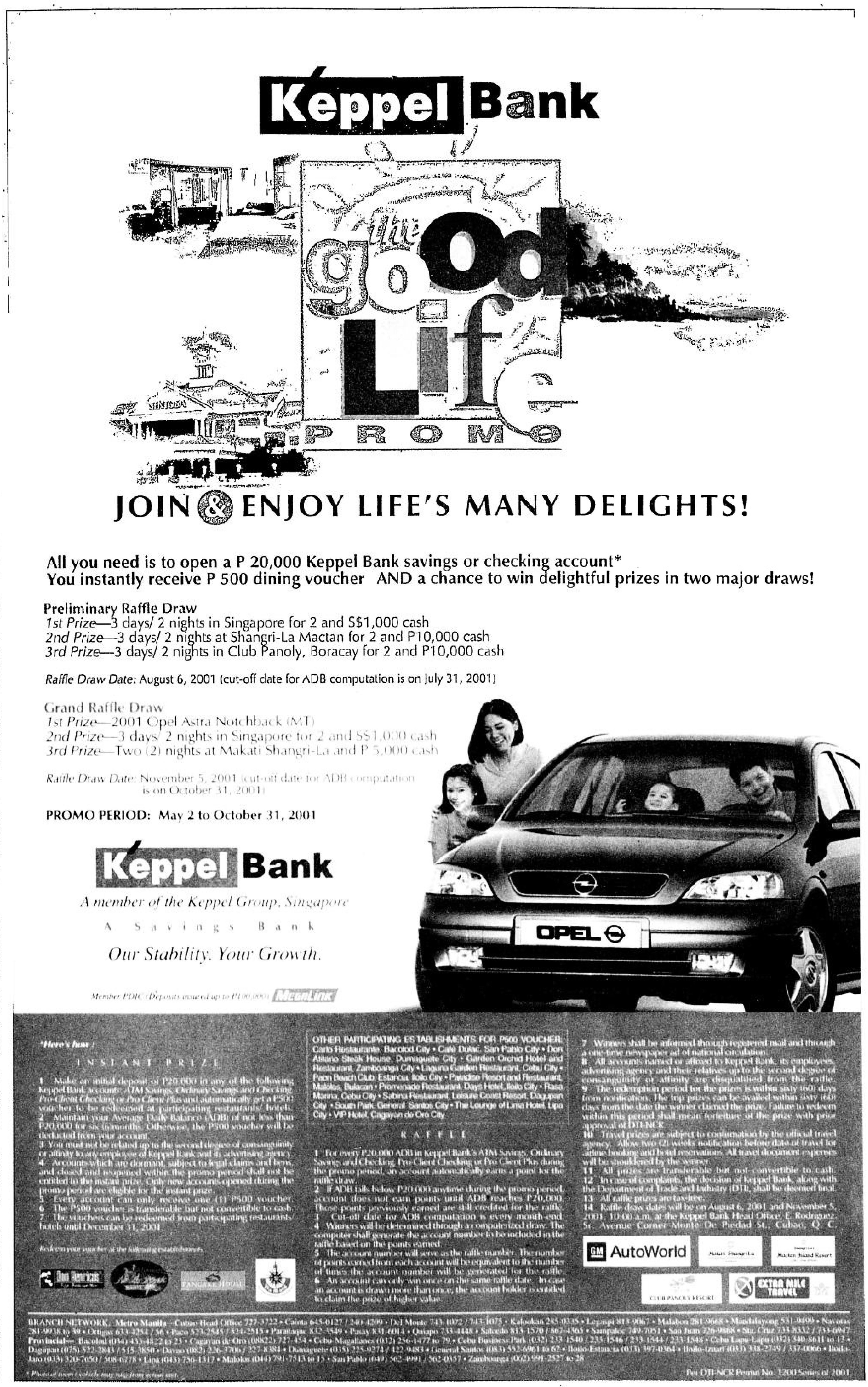
Economy

Our economy, like our stock market, is not yet in a strengthening mode. But we may have hit near bottom on both. For all of the problems, (and there were and may still be many more to come) the election, if not the counting, is finished. We got through it.

Our elections are sort of like a long and difficult childbirth labor. We forget about the baby and think only about the process. In a couple of weeks we can focus our attention on what the new Congress is going to do rather than how it got there. Let's hope that the new legislative baby that we just gave birth to fulfills our wishes and expectations.

I was fairly active in sending out my e-mail analysis this past week so if you did not receive it, contact me. Many addresses have bounced back so if you have changed yours, contact me. If you want to receive my free (maybe you get what you pay for) analysis, contact me.

(John Mangun can be reached at 636-1121 to 35, Fax No. 634-2349 or e-mail at johnmangun@yahoo.com.)



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2 If ADB falls below P20,000 anytime during the promo period, account does not earn points until ADB reaches P20,000. Those points previously earned are still credited for the raffle.
3 Cut-off date for ADB computation is every month-end.
4 Winners will be determined through a computerized draw. The computer shall generate the account number to be included in the raffle based on the points earned.
5 The account number will serve as the raffle number. The number of points earned from each account will be equivalent to the number of times the account number will be generated for the raffle.
6 An account can only win once on the same raffle date. In case an account is drawn more than once, the account holder is entitled to claim the prize of higher value.
7 Winners shall be informed through registered mail and through a one-time newspaper ad of national circulation.
8 All accounts named or affixed to Keppel Bank, its employees, advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the raffle.
9 The redemption period for the prizes is within sixty (60) days from notification. The trip prizes can be availed within sixty (60) days from the date the winner claimed the prize. Failure to redeem within this period shall mean forfeiture of the prize with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
10 Travel prizes are subject to confirmation by the official travel agency. Allow two (2) weeks notification before date of travel for airline booking and hotel reservations. All travel document expenses will be shouldered by the winner.
11 All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
12 In case of complaints, the decision of Keppel Bank, along with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall be deemed final.
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14 Raffle draw dates will be on August 6, 2001 and November 5, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the Keppel Bank Head Office, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue Corner Monte De Piedad St., Cubao, Q. C.

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* Photo of room / vehicle may vary from actual unit.

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P39B in agri projects delayed

By Christine A. Gaylican

FOREIGN-ASSISTED development projects for the agriculture sector worth some P39 billion may be further delayed due to the inability of the government to raise the required counterpart funds.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Segfredo Serrano said these ongoing projects, mostly for irrigation and infrastructure, were not implemented as scheduled last year due to the slow release of government counterpart funds.

These include the Malitubog-Maridagao Irrigation project, the Irrigation Operations Support project and the Rural Infrastructure Development project of ADB.

"The utilization rate of projects funded through official development assistance funds was quite low last year because there was a delay in the release of government counterpart funds. Our suppliers and contractors are now more cautious and had refused to go on with only assurance paper releases, which are mere promissory notes at hand," Serrano said.

ODA projects refer to mostly infrastructure projects co-funded by multilateral lending agencies such as the World Bank, Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Asian Development Bank and foreign governments.

The national government is supposed to provide counterpart funds to these loans to ensure the continued release of the funds.

Serrano said in an interview that the situation was not likely to change this year due to the bleak revenue picture and the tight budget allocation for government agencies including the agriculture department.

The agriculture department expects a P12.4-billion budget this year under the General Appropriations Act, lower than last year's P19 billion.

With its tight budget, the agriculture department plans to rehabilitate existing irrigation systems covering at least one million hectares and pursue its certified seeds distribution program to at least match last year's palay production yields of 12.4 metric tons.

"An important strategy that we would pursue is the distribution of certified seeds to farmers. But due to budget constraints, it would probably not cover the one million hectares targeted by the previous administration," Serrano said.

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9	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	450,000.00	350,000.00
10	FOREST HILLS	280,000.00	-
11	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	450,000.00	-
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	4,500,000.00	4,000,000.00
13	MANILA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (Individual)	18,500,000.00	14,500,000.00
14	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	-	850,000.00
15	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	925,000.00	-
16	METROPOLITAN CLUB	200,000.00	-
17	MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB (Corporate)	-	30,000.00
18	MT MALARAYAT "B"	550,000.00	500,000.00
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Forest Hills "C"		400,000
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Manila Golf (Individual)	14,500,000	15,500,000
Manila Polo	-	4,000,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	800,000	830,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	-	1,000,000
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Metropolitan Club "B"		230,000
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Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	400,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	650,000	-
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Puerto Azul	170,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	230,000	250,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	270,000
Royale Tagaytay "A/B/C"	Please Call	Please Call
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	250,000
Sta. Elena "A"	-	2,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	2,200,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Corp.)	400,000	550,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Ind.)	-	300,000
Tagaytay Country Club	430,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	-	1,200,000
Tagaytay Midlands	-	870,000
Valle Verde (Ind)		220,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club		10,600,000

PLAYING RIGHTS
(Available Lessees)

Manila Golf	450,000

(Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	40,000	Mimosa Golf	20,000
Calatagan "A"	15,000	Orchard "A"	20,000
Canlubang	70,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	30,000	Sta. Elena	70,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	30,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	65,000
Manila Southwoods	60,000	Tivoli Royale	20,000
Makati Sports "A"	35,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	500,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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Partial List	05/17/2001	Share Swapping: Please Call	
CLUBS	ASKED Price	CLUBS	BID Price
CC @ TAGAYTAY	490,000	ALABANG "A"	1,900,000
CALATAGAN	120,000	ALABANG "B"	2,000,000
EAGLERIDGE "B"	550,000	CAMP JOHN HAY	350,000
FOREST HILLS "C"	450,000	CAPITOL HILLS	115,000
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	430,000	CELEBRITY CLUB	200,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	825,000	EAGLERIDGE "A"	300,000
MT MALARAYAT "A"/"C"	.50M/1.1M	MANILA GOLF (INDIV.)	14,500,000
ORCHARD "B"/"C"	.60M/.65M	MANILA GOLF (CORP.)	16,250,000
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85,000	MANILA POLO CLUB	3,800,000
PUERTO AZUL	230,000	METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"	160,000
STA. ELENA "A"	2,100,000	QUEZON CITY SPORTS "A"	225,000
SUBIC BAY YACHT (CORP)	550,000	RIVIERA "A"	250,000
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	1,150,000	STA. ELENA "B"	2,200,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	925,000	VALLE VERDE	170,000

AVAILABLE LESSORS FOR PLAYING RIGHTS

ALABANG CC "A"	25,000	STA. ELENA "A"	80,000
MAKATI SPORTS	30,000	TAGAYTAY H LANDS GOLF	65,000
MANILA GOLF	500,000	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	40,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	40,000	WACK WACK	100,000

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CLUB	SELLING	BUYING
Alabang A	Pls. Call	1,900,000
Alabang B	Pls. Call	2,100,000
Baguio CC	Pls. Call	800,000
Capitol Hills	Pls. Call	120,000
Camp John Hay		350,000
Canyon Woods	400,000	
Celebrity Sports	Best Buy!	Pls. Call
Club Filipino	330,000	280,000
Eagleridge	460,000	Pls. Call
Evercrest	130,000	
Filipinas Golf	350,000	300,000
Fortuna C	140,000	110,000
Fortuna D	90,000	
Forest Hills A	200,000	Pls. Call
Malarayat	550,000	
Manila Golf	Pls. Call	14,500,000
Manila Polo		3,000,000
Manila Southwoods A	850,000	800,000
Manila Southwoods B	950,000	900,000
Mimosa A	Pls. Call	200,000
Mimosa C2	300,000	
Orchard	325,000	Pls. Call
Riviera	260,000	Pls. Call
Sta. Elena	2,200,000	Pls. Call
Subic Golf	310,000	
Subic Yacht Club	450,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay CC	500,000	Pls. Call
Tagaytay Midlands	880,000	850,000
Tagaytay Highlands	1,100,000	Pls. Call
Tivoli Royale	230,000	
Valle Verde	196,000	175,000
Wack-wack	10,500,000	10,000,000

Playing Rights

Alabang	60,000	Tagaytay CC	40,000
Eagleridge	50,000	Tagaytay Midlands	60,000
~~Orchard~~	Best Buy!	Tagaytay Highlands	60,000
Manila Southwoods	50,000		

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BUYING:			
Alabang A	2,050,000	Baguio Country Club	[illegible]
Alabang B	[illegible]	Camp John Hay Golf	[illegible]
Baguio Country Club	[illegible]	Capitol Hills	130,000
Camp John Hay Golf	360,000	Celebrity	[illegible]
Capitol Hills	130,000	Club Filipino	300,000
Celebrity	[illegible]	CC @ Tagaytay Highland	450,000
Club Filipino	280,000	Eagle Ridge A	425,000
CC @ Tagaytay Highland	450,000	Evercrest	[illegible]
Eagle Ridge A/B/C	425/Please call	Fortuna A/B/C/D	Please call/[illegible]
Forest Hills "A"	240,000	Forest Hills A/B	250,000/290,000
Manila Golf (Indiv)	14,500,000	Forest Hills C	450,000
Manila Golf (Corp)	17,500,000	Luisita & Rockwell Club	Please call
Manila Polo	[illegible]	Manila Golf (Indiv)	[illegible]
Manila Southwoods "A"	[illegible]	Manila Golf (Corp)	[illegible]
Manila Southwoods "B"	950,000	Manila Polo	[illegible]
Makati Sports "A"	430,000	Manila Southwoods "A"	[illegible]
Mt. Malarayat A/B/C	[illegible]	Manila Southwoods "B"	950,000
Orchard A/C	280,000/400,000	Makati Sports A/B	450,000/450,000
Puerto Azul	Please call	Mimosa (Indiv. Corp)	Please call
Quezon City Sports	225,000	Mt. Malarayat A/C	305,000/Please call
Riviera A/B/C	250/300/550	Orchard A/C	280,000/400,000
Sta. Elena A/B	1,900,000/2,200,000	Puerto Azul	Please call
Tagaytay Highland Golf	1,150,000	Quezon City Sports	240,000
Tagaytay Highland Club	450,000	Riviera A/B/C	250/350/600
Tagaytay Midlands	840,000	Royale Tagaytay	Please call
Valle Verde CC	200,000	Sta. Elena A/B	Please call
Valley Golf	330,000	Subic Yacht (Indiv. & Corp.)	Please call
Wack Wack	Please call	Tagaytay Highland Club	450,000
SELLING		Tagaytay Midlands	840,000
Alabang A	2,050,000	Valle Verde CC	200,000
		Valley Golf	330,000
		Wack Wack	[illegible]

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MWSS to hold regular surveys

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System said it may soon institutionalize a public performance monitoring system designed to evaluate the delivery of water services in Metro Manila.

According to MWSS Regulatory Office Deputy Administrator Efren Agustin, the MWSS plans to standardize a survey that assesses the performance of its two concessionaires.

This survey, dubbed as the "Public Performance Assessment," is a technical assistance project of the World Bank-International Bank for Reconstruction and Development that aims to strengthen the capabilities of the MWSS to monitor services rendered by Manila Water Co. Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.

Making the survey part of the MWSS-Regulatory Office's duties at least every quarter would entail at least P500 million.

Agustin said in an interview last week that although the final results had yet to be released, preliminary data showed that services delivered by Manila Water and Maynilad were generally "satisfactory."

"We have presented the draft of the final report to the board of trustees and the concessionaires for possible comments. So far, the pilot survey has been very successful," Agustin said.

The survey had 100 barangays as respondents.

This $2.3-million World Bank technical assistance project through the IBRD was first implemented by Renardet and Louis Berger International and then transferred to the University of the Philippines National Engineering Center.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, May 18, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank of the Phil. Islands	78.5	79	78.5	79	611,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	45	45	44.5	44.5	173,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	213	214	210	214	84,100
Prudential Bank	475	475	475	475	300
Philippine National Bank	50.5	50.5	49.5	50	74,700
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	29.5	28.5	29.5	900
Rizal Comm'l Bkg Corp A	26	26	26	26	100
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.5	20	20.5	18,200
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	53,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	247	247	247	247	100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1300	1305	1300	1305	8,820
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1055	1060	1055	1060	5,580
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	41	41.5	41	41.5	5,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	1,410,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	690	690	6,700
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	1,200,000
Piltel	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	720	720	705	710	41,170
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.046	0.047	0.045	0.046	160,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	42.5	43	42	42	46,800
Manila Electric Co. B	58	58	56.5	56.5	125,800
Petron Corp.	1.82	1.84	1.8	1.84	5,867,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	4,663,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATEDPRODUCTS					
Union Cement Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	135,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.15	3.25	3.15	3.15	1,025,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	19,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	28	28	27.5	28	41,200
RFM Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	300,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	47.5	46.5	46.5	55,600
San Miguel Corp. B	50	50.5	49.5	50	414,100
Universal Robina Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	250,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.74	0.74	0.73	0.73	60,000
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.7	7.5	7.6	2,665,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	308,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.25	12.25	4,200
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	2,000,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.38	1.38	9,453,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	300,000
Holdings Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	180,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.12	1.14	1,155,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24	24	23.75	23.75	69,400
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	50,000
Ionics Inc.	11.5	11.75	11.25	11.25	47,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.14	2.16	2.06	2.08	402,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	18,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.012	900,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	1,550,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.5	0.5	300,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.5	0.5	290,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.1	3,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250 000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.6	0.67	0.6	0.67	40,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	400,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
A Brown Company Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	40,000
Music Corp.	2.8	2.8	2.75	2.75	188,000
Reynolds Philippine Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	40,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	120,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.52	0.5	0.5	1,180,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.5	400,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp. (Pdr)	41	42	41	41.5	1,187,300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	8,000
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	695	695	695	695	5,800
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	500
Macroasia Corp. Warrants	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	50,000
Omico Corp.Warrant Omw	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	5,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.038	0.039	0.036	0.038	77,400,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	4,000
Far Eastern University	370	370	370	370	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	2,595,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.3	0.3	2,750,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.35	2,790,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.24	2.3	2.22	2.24	8,347,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.6	6,762,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	400,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	120,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	2,500,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	7,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Omico Corporation	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	3,680,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	500,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	35,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	0.004	6,000,000
Pacifica	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	22,500,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	30,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	1,031,000	95,396,310.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	282,303,480	198,353,565.00
PRO	25,164,000	80,549,760.00
Mining	35,180,000	1,033,200.00
OIL	65,530,000	539,900.00
GRAND TOTALS :	409,208,480	375,872,735.00

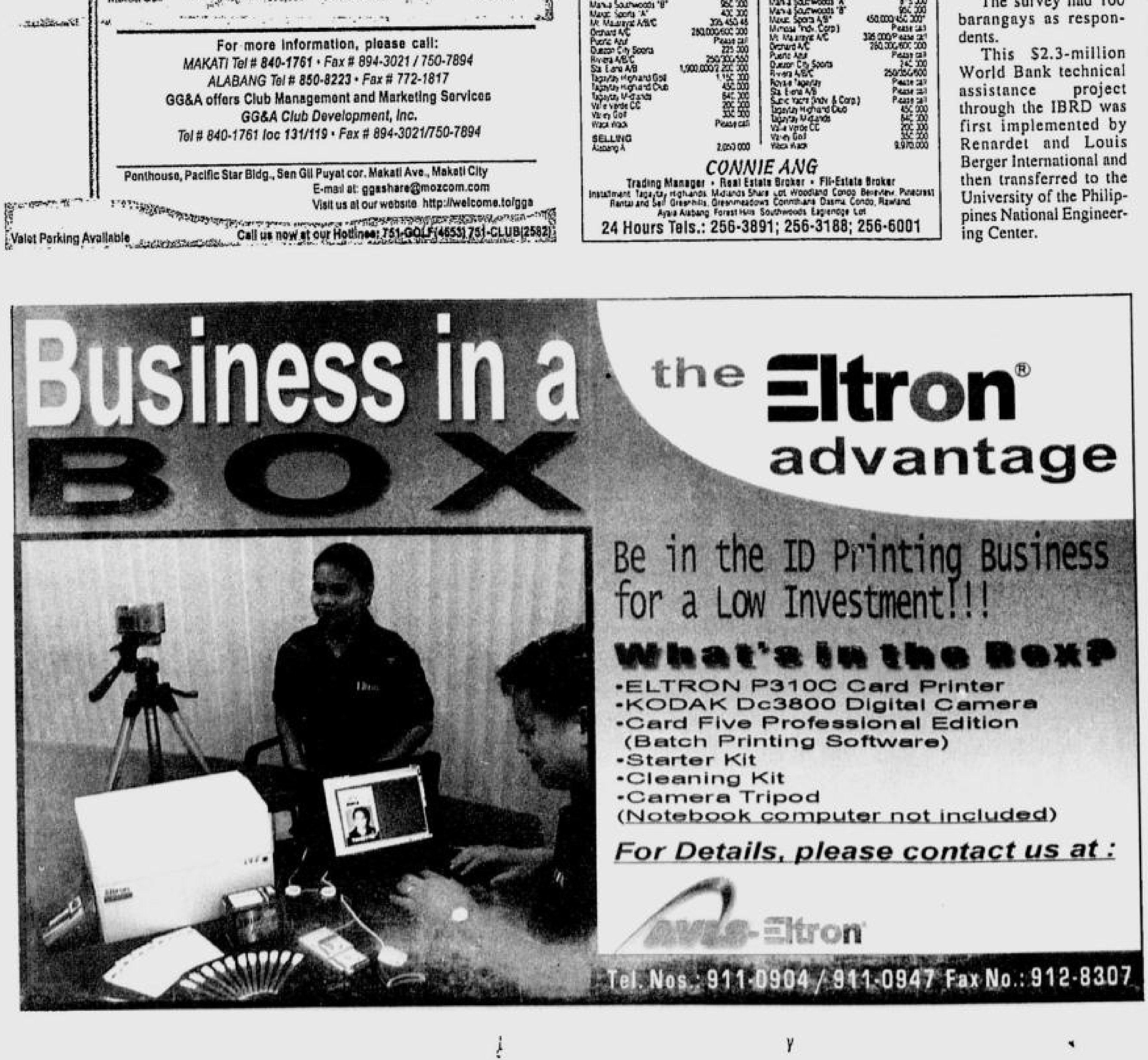
AVERAGES		
Banks & Fin Svc	622.02	DOWN 0.33
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,987.13	DOWN 6.34
PRO	561.57	DOWN 7.91
Mining	1,171.45	UP 13.41
OIL	1.41	DOWN 0.03
All Shares Index	764.82	UP 6.91
Composite	1,453.03	DOWN 8.76

NO. OF ADVANCES: 32; NO. OF DECLINES: 23; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 43;
NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 98; NO. OF TRADES: 2,356

CURRENCIES

May 18, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.132631	1.000000	50.1620
Japan	Yen	0.009252	0.008169	0.4098
United Kingdom	Pound	1.623174	1.433100	71.8872
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145212	0.128208	6.4312
Switzerland	Franc	0.651386	0.575109	28.8486
Canada	Dollar	0.737871	0.651466	32.6788
Singapore	Dollar	0.628018	0.554477	27.8137
Australia	Dollar	0.598137	0.528095	26.4903
Bahrain	Dinar	3.004486	2.652661	133.0628
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.302010	0.266645	13.3754
Brunei	Dollar	0.626282	0.552944	27.7368
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000089	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.024976	0.022051	1.1061
UAE	Dirham	0.308409	0.272294	13.6588
Korea	Won	0.000870	0.000768	0.0385
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.882900	44.2880
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.45142	22.6441
France	Franc	0.152450	0.134597	6.7517
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453781	0.400643	20.0971
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.064163	3.2185
Belgium	Franc	0.024790	0.021887	1.0979
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000456	0.0229
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.148493	7.4487
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004404	0.2209
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005306	0.2662
Luxembourg	Franc	0.024790	0.021887	1.0979
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.121052	56.2342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Dull week in stock trading

By Doris C. Dumlao

MARKET PLAY

AFTER a disappointing election week, investors are expected to remain on the edge of their seats as they cautiously await the results of last Monday's polls.

Analysts told the INQUIRER volatility might emerge, depending on the final results of the elections. Overall, however, trading would be choppy and vulnerable to how the canvassing of votes would shape up, they said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 2.44 percent last week to close at 1,448.62 on Friday, spooked by the stronger-than-expected showing of senatorial candidates allied with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Not even the much-awaited rate cut in US interest rates was able to provide relief to stock investors.

Vickers Ballas Securities (Philippines) Inc. assistant director for sales Enrique Sta. Ana said the key index would likely trade in a tight range as long as daily volume remains below P500 million. This week should provide a clearer political picture and determine how investors would behave, he said, but the bias would be on the downside due to last week's disappointing trend.

"Also, the administration is trying to psyche up investors that it might be difficult to pass the much-awaited power bill. That's why there has been selling on Meralco. There's no trend, which means that we're in a consolidation and the next support level is at 1,370," Sta. Ana said.

Worldsec International Securities (Philippines) Inc. head of research Eric Claudio said trading would likely be even duller this week in the absence of fresh corporate news and positive developments.

"We were bullish last week as the usual ingredients were there, but those who bought were disappointed. Now, investors are still nervous and the elections remain as an overhang. Then, we have the renewed volatility of the US markets, so that would again divert attention," Claudio said.

"Then there are less corporate news to stimulate the market. Most first quarter earnings results have come out. In the absence of fresh news, people will be looking more at a negative (trend). The 1,400 level is a strong technical support, but it's not impossible to be breached," he said.

Despite the short-term bearish trend, Claudio said the outlook for the corporate sector and the economy was improving over the medium- to long-term.

Mark Securities Corp. head of research Manny Cruz said foreign investors were still not keen on braving the local equities market and that stocks were likely to trade on the downside this week, even assuming an 8-5 trend in favor of the Macapagal administration's senatorial candidates.

"The perception is that a lot of people still prefer Estrada. Investors will pull back. The index might go below the 1,420 level," Cruz said.

Web-based investment guide Philstocks.net said the Phisix was now back to its intermediate downtrend channel with the upper band providing solid near-term resistance. It predicted that the market would see few more days of lackluster sideways movement within the trading range of 1,430 to 1,480.

"The market may react positively if there are any indications that the government's bets are winning, but the elections will not always be the market driver that it is right now. Ultimately, investors will need to focus more on the economy and corporate earnings. We agree that a victory for the administration's bets will improve the chances of an economic recovery, but it is not a guaranteed thing. Investors will still be on hold and make sure that the coast is clear before returning to the market. The market will watch and wait since no concrete economic programs have been laid out as of now," it said.

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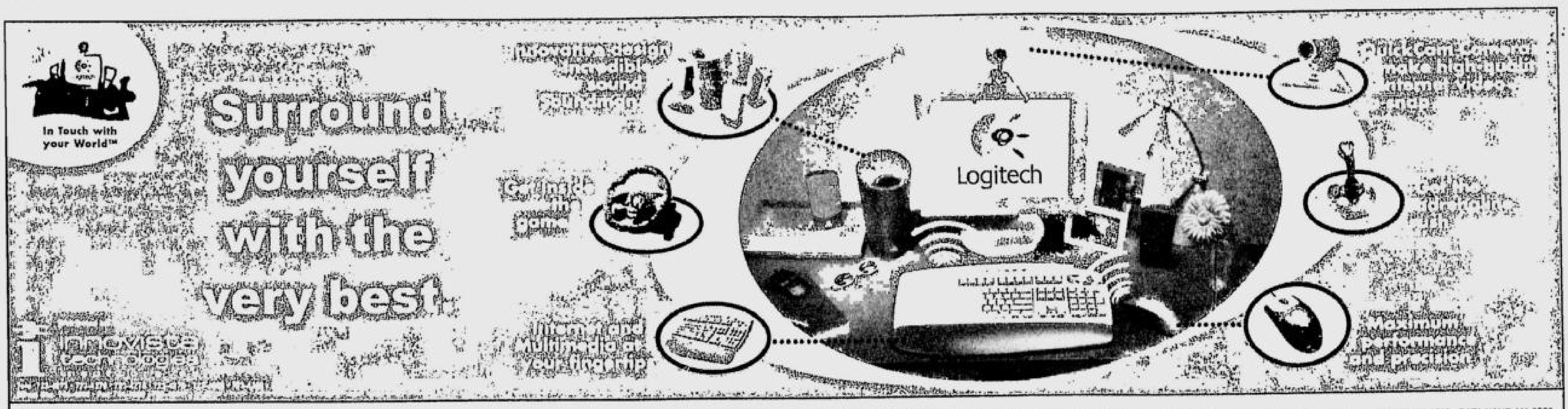

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DTI taps NGOs to broaden credit opportunity for SMEs

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is taking the grassroots approach in state lending to small and medium-scale enterprises by tapping nongovernment organizations and specialty banks.

In an interview on Friday, Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said groups like the Philippine Business for Social Progress and Planters Development Bank were better-equipped than most banks in dealing with small and medium-scale enterprises because of their existing networks and experience in lending to this sector.

Roxas said PBSP, a nongovernment organization bankrolled by annual contributions from its member corporations, was more attuned to the needs of small businessmen.

The group has a firmer grasp of the strengths and weaknesses of small and medium-scale enterprises, giving it a better position to assess the borrowers' risk profile, he said.

Roxas added that nongovernment organizations like PBSP also serve as advisers for livelihood projects in the provinces, making them an ideal partner in deploying funds for small- and medium-scale organizations.

The trade secretary said one of the options being considered by the trade department in tapping nongovernment organizations was the acquisition of receivables of cooperatives.

"By buying their receivables, the cooperatives can use the fresh money for re-lending," said Roxas, who debunked the notion that small- and medium-scale enterprises were poor borrowers.

Roxas cited the 95-percent repayment rate of Plantersbank, the largest Philippine bank specializing in lending to small- and medium-scale enterprises.

Plantersbank is one of the specialty banks that the trade department wants to ride on in its drive to help small- and medium-scale enterprises with their financial requirements.

Plantersbank is majority owned by the Tambunting family and is backed by major global financial institutions such as the International Finance Corp., Asian Development Bank and the Dutch development agency FMO.

Roxas said tapping nongovernment organizations and specialty banks was among the creative measures that the trade department was eyeing to ensure that roughly P100 billion worth of funds allocated by private banks, government financial institutions and pension funds for small- and medium-scale lending would go to their intended beneficiaries.

The DTI is asking holders of the National Development Co.'s "Erap bonds" for an extension and a change in these debt instruments' terms to enable the government to use them to help small- and medium-scale enterprises.

₱1.8B in power bills saved, DOE reports

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PRIVATE sector saved at least P1.8 billion in electricity costs over the past three years due to the implementation of energy efficiency measures, according to the Department of Energy.

The savings—equivalent to 345.4 million liters of oil—represented the reduction in electricity consumption of private firms that participated in the Don Emilio Abello Awards.

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the DoE has stepped up its campaign for the efficient use of energy to help cushion the effects of increasing power and fuel costs.

The DoE hopes government agencies would be able to duplicate, if not better, the performance of these private firms by practicing energy-efficiency measures.

The government has set aside P13.2 billion over the next 10 years for the implementation of a full-scale energy conservation program.

The government estimated that the energy efficiency program would result in foreign exchange savings of up to $1.1 billion or energy savings equivalent to 70.6 million barrels of fuel oil.

The DoE offers energy audit services to the commercial and industrial sector to help them assess and measure energy consumption patterns, as well as recommend a specific energy saving program for each company or factory.

The DoE has also secured a fund to help cash-strapped companies implement energy efficiency programs.

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Globe posts over 3M subscribers

GLOBE Handyphone, the country's top cellular network provider, affirms its leadership stance in the cellular telecommunications industry by achieving another milestone of more than three million subscribers.

The company credits its success to its innovative and pioneering outlook, having introduced most of the cellular services that, today, are considered standard features in the cellular industry.

Among the services that Globe Handyphone has pioneered is text messaging, which alone is consistently considered a significant consumer preference. Other attractive features followed, such as GlobeIcons, Globe Greeting Cards, GlobeTones, Globe Infotext, Globe Chat, IDD rates, Globe WAP, and just recently, Globe GPRS, to name just a few.

Another significant factor that enticed subscribers is Globe Handyphone's GENTXT Card, which gives valuable discounts, freebies, and exclusive privileges in a growing list of merchant establishments. There are also the seasonal GlobeVolution mall tours where Handyphone prices can drop to very affordable levels.

Globe Handyphone's continued network enhancements and expansion nationwide guarantees its capability to accommodate its rapidly growing subscriber base. The company continues to be the dominant choice in cellular service due to its commitment to give its subscribers all they ever need in their hands.

Ayala mutual fund reports 79% asset hike

THE BLEAK scenario of the Philippine equities market last year, manifested in the nosedive of the Philippine Stock Exchange composite index, which by the end of the year closed at 1,494.5 points, was likewise mirrored in the discouraging performance of most of Philippine mutual funds that carry equity investments in their portfolio.

However, mutual funds that invest primarily in fixed-income securities were spared from this unsatisfactory performance as they registered an average 6.44-percent increase in their net asset value per unit (NAVPU) for the whole year.

Among the top gainers is Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund Inc. (ALFM), which boasts an 8.56-percent growth in its NAVPU, with net assets posting a remarkable increase of 79.6 percent from P1.25 billion in 1999 to P2.2 billion in 2000.

Amid declining yields in fixed-income investments, ALFM registered a net yield of 10.61 percent for the first quarter of 2001, outperforming the 91-day treasury bill benchmark of 8.73 percent and other similar mutual funds and CTFs.

This extraordinary fund performance translated to an additional market for ALFM as its share in the total industry widened further to 39.6 percent as of the first quarter of the year from 36.8 percent as of end-2000.

For the first quarter of the year, the Fund's NAV at P2.47 billion by end-March already climbed up another 10 percent from December-2000 figures.

A mutual fund pertains to a pool of money from various investors managed by professional fund managers according to pre-set investment objectives. By investing in mutual funds, small investors are afforded numerous benefits, such as diversification across different types of securities and access to a professionally managed portfolio.

Barely two years in the market, ALFM, which was launched in September 1999, continues to strengthen its position in the mutual fund industry. Its steady ascent inevitably brought about several requests to increase the fund capitalization from P200 million during its incorporation in 1997 to P1 billion and P2 billion in 1998 and 1999, respectively. To date, the authorized capital stock of ALFM is P5 billion.

ALFM is an investment company managed by BPI Asset Management, an independent unit of the Bank of the Philippine Islands handling fiduciary and investment management services, and is currently exclusively available only through its duly authorized distributors.

ALFM enjoys the expertise that BPI Asset Management offers as an industry leader. BPI Asset Management dominates the Asset Management and trust Industry with over P100 billion in total assets held in trust and leads in all three major industry divisions.

NTC extends Nextel license

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission (NTC) recently extended Nextel Communication Philippines Inc.'s provisional authority to operate for another three years.

The NTC said Nextel deserved the extension noting that the company has made the state-of-the-art iDEN technology available in the country since 1998.

Nextel president Emilio P. Festejo said the extension of the PA has boosted investor confidence in Nextel Philippines. This development further demonstrates the improvement in the regulatory environment that serves the telecommunication industry.

The company is consequently more optimistic in its bid to expand the business and to introduce more value-added features and services in the near future, Festejo added.

Nextel is the country's biggest trunk radio operator, presently operating a full-service iDEN (Integrated Digital Enhanced Network) network covering Metro Manila and the industrial corridors of Central and Southern Luzon. Its services include digital trunk radio, phone interconnection, paging, IDD, International Roaming with iDEN and GSM networks.

GOINGS-ON

Shell, JG sign deal

PILIPINAS Shell Corp. clinched a contract with JG Summit Holdings for the supply of regular fuel oil and automotive diesel oil until 2006. The Shell products will be used in the various manufacturing requirements of JG Summit's various consumer brand, agro-industrial, real estate and hotels, air transportation, petrochemicals, textiles and garments, financial services, telecommunications and Internet businesses.

JG Summit Petrochemical executive vice president and CEO Willie Paras, JG Summit logistics materials management vice president Eddie Yap, JG Summit Holdings chief executive officer and chair James Go, Pilipinas Shell president Oscar S. Reyes, Shell oil commercial vice president Romy de Guzman and Shell Asean oil commercial general manager Ed Chua signed the agreement.

BPI leads

BPI Asset Management now leads in all three major industry divisions in the asset management and trust business, Bank of the Philippine Islands announced recently.

The three major industry divisions are trust, investment management and common trust funds. Together, they account for over P100 billion in assets managed.

With the slogan "Put your trust in our name," BPI Asset Management said it would embark on yet another first. In March, for instance, it unveiled its assets management awareness campaign to provide a continuous stream of informational values and projects.

The campaign is aimed at educating not only Unibankers but more importantly the investing public in general on the flexibility and depth of fiduciary products as a powerful investment alternative.

Products offered by BPI Asset Management include segregated portfolio management, trust administration, estate planning and common trust funds.

These investment products cater primarily to high-net worth individuals, corporations and institutions requiring the expertise and resources of a professional fund management/trustee.

EEI's ISO seal

EEI Corp. has retained its ISO 9001 certification from TUV Products Services Gmbh of Germany.

EEI, the country's leading construction company, hurdled with flying colors the stringent audits conducted by TUV in January with zero incidence of non-conformance to standards. It was awarded the ISO 9001 in January last year, and is also a holder of the ISO 9002 certification since 1998.

"We are gratified that we continue to meet the stringent standards required by the internationally respected accreditation group," EEI president Samson Lazo said. EEI, which is listed in the stock exchange, is the first and only construction company to have gained the ISO 9001.

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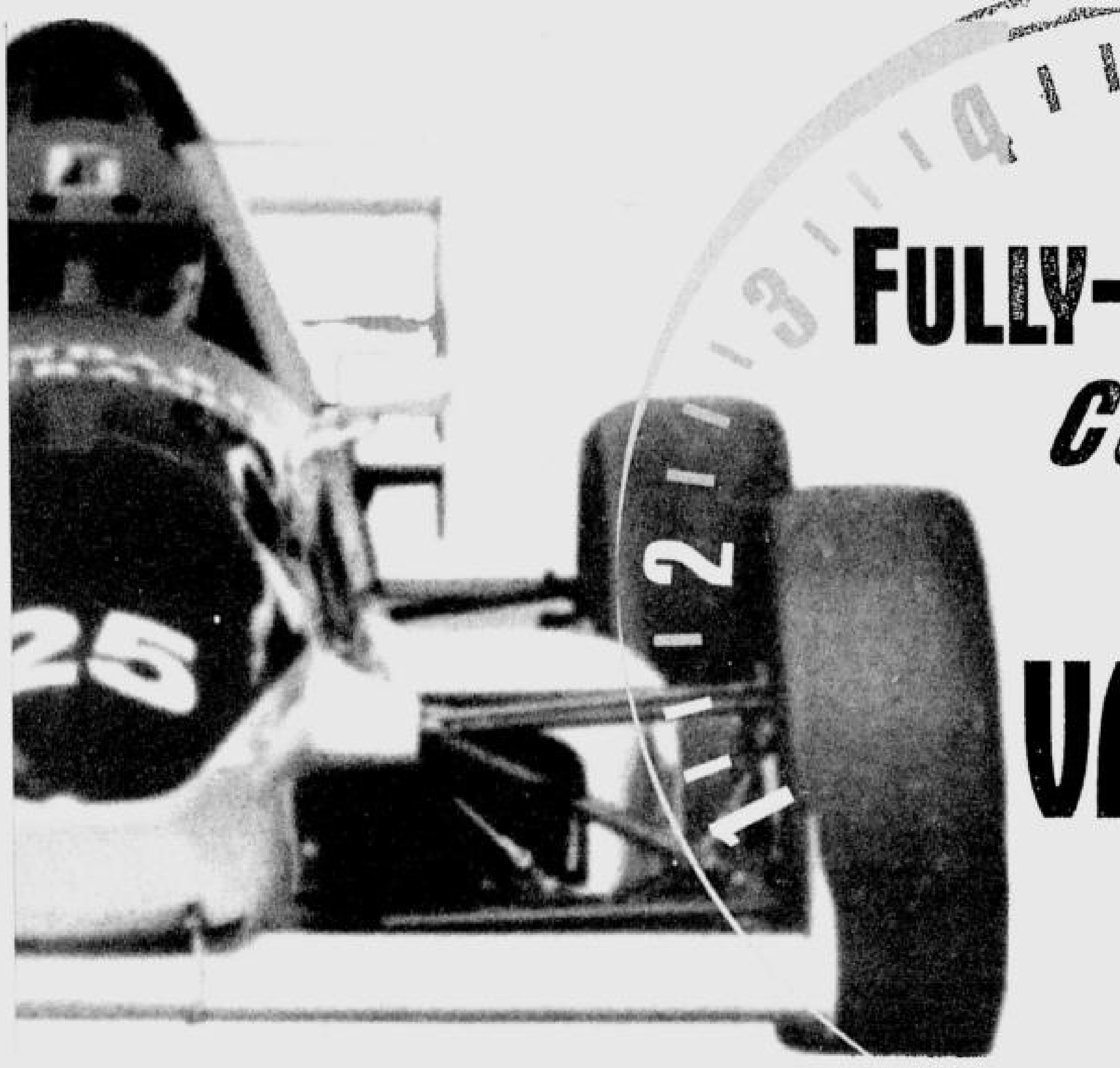

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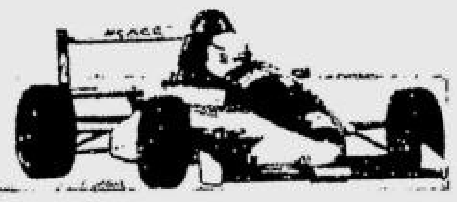

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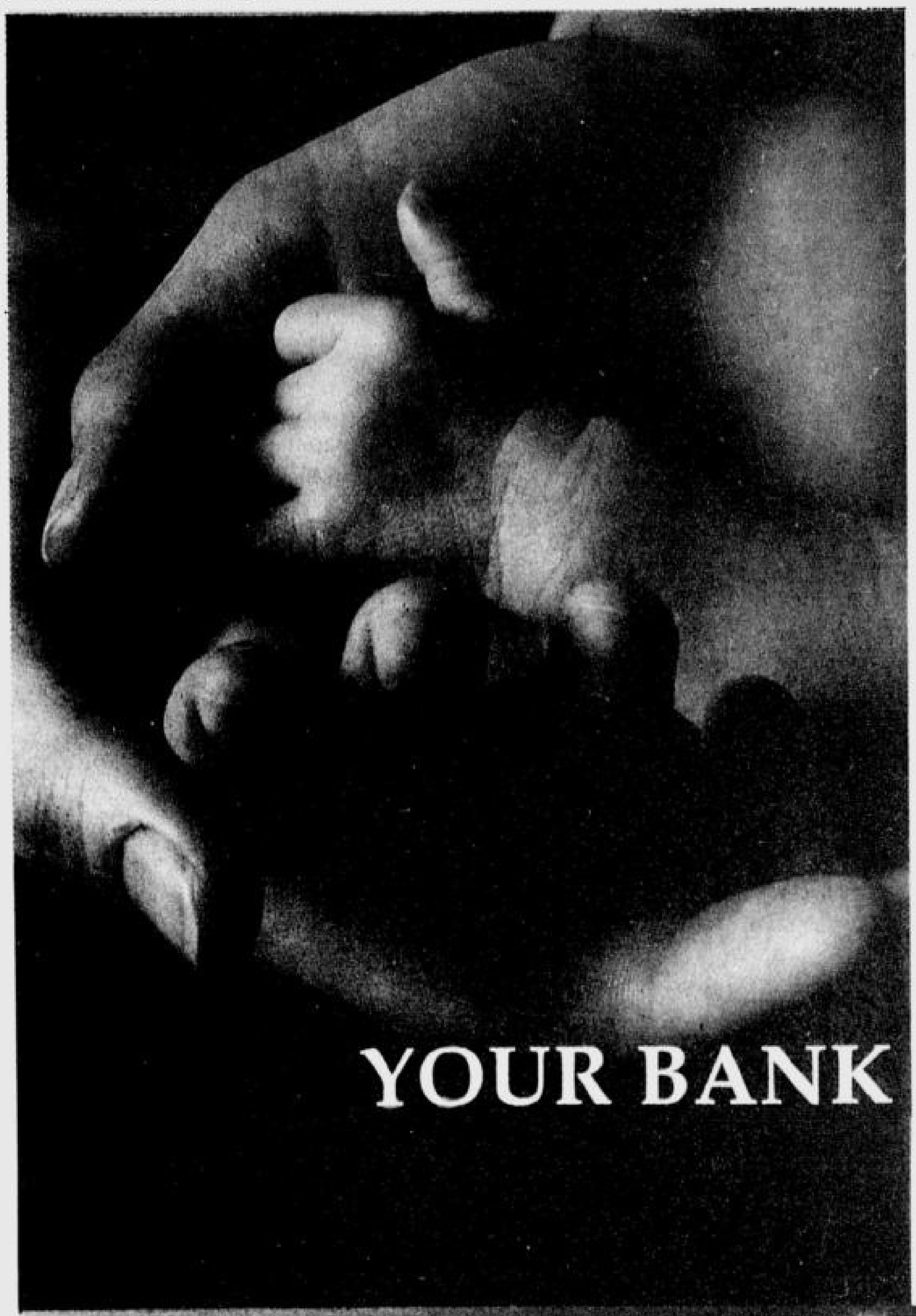

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Alcatel in talks to acquire Lucent

PHILADELPHIA/CHICAGO—French telecommunications equipment maker Alcatel is in talks to acquire US rival Lucent Technologies Inc., according to sources familiar with the situation, in a deal that will give Alcatel the major US presence it craves.

A decision might be reached "sooner rather than later," the sources said. Negotiations, which have been held on and off over the past month, might heat up this week, and a deal could be forged by June, they said.

One investment banker, who declined to be identified, said Lucent also had talked to other potential suitors.

Alcatel and Lucent declined to comment.

If the two companies agree on a deal, Alcatel would pay little, if any, premium over Lucent's current stock price, the sources said.

The New York Times newspaper reported that Alcatel might pay a 20-percent premium for Lucent, but sources told Reuters that value was incorrect. Lucent has a market capitalization of about $34 billion, while Alcatel has about 43.6 billion euros, or $38.3 billion.

"The market does not like this deal, if it does happen, and is putting masses of pressure on Alcatel shares," said Simon Kirton of Aberdeen Asset Management. "The market thinks it will be difficult to integrate the two companies."

A deal would combine Lucent's strength in North America with Alcatel's power in Europe.

"Alcatel has always wanted a tremendous presence in the United States, and that's why they've done their series of acquisitions that they've done over the years, but none of them have given them the No. 1, 2, or 3 total systems company clout in the US. With this, they'd be there," said one fund manager, who declined to be named.

Alcatel would gain Lucent's renowned Bell Labs research and development arm, and its expertise in CDMA wireless technology, switching, transmission and core network products. The CDMA wireless technology competes with the GSM standard that dominates in Europe.

Alcatel, meanwhile, has strengths in edge network products that connect long-haul to local networks, optics and digital subscriber line technology.

The French company has shed businesses from vineyards to nuclear power and strengthened its presence in the United States, where it gets about 20 percent of its sales.

It divested more than $10 billion in European assets to help fund a $17-billion push into North America, including its acquisitions of optical equipment company DSC Communications in 1998 and switch maker Newbridge Networks last year.

Sources familiar with the situation said the negotiations grew out of Alcatel's interest in buying Lucent's fiber-optic cable business. They come at a time when the industry is struggling with a slowdown in equipment spending by telecommunications carriers.

Those pressures have compounded Lucent's own problems.

Lucent buckled under several product development missteps, management turnover, and massive losses. Its stock has fallen about 82.5 percent over the past year, underperforming the Standard & Poor's 500 index by about 80 percent. Credit rating agencies have warned they may cut its rating to junk status.

"I'm not surprised that the Lucent board would be willing to entertain offers at only a slight premium to get the monkey off their back. This is a huge turnaround project and they really need an injection of management and stability," said Tim Ghriskey, a senior portfolio manager with Dreyfus Corp.

"Europeans tend to not worry so much about the length of time it takes to turn something around. They're much longer-term than the US market has become," Ghriskey said.

Industry sources told Reuters last month that the initial talks between Alcatel and Lucent faltered because of differences on valuation and Lucent's apprehension about getting easy merger clearance from authorities in Washington. *Reuters*

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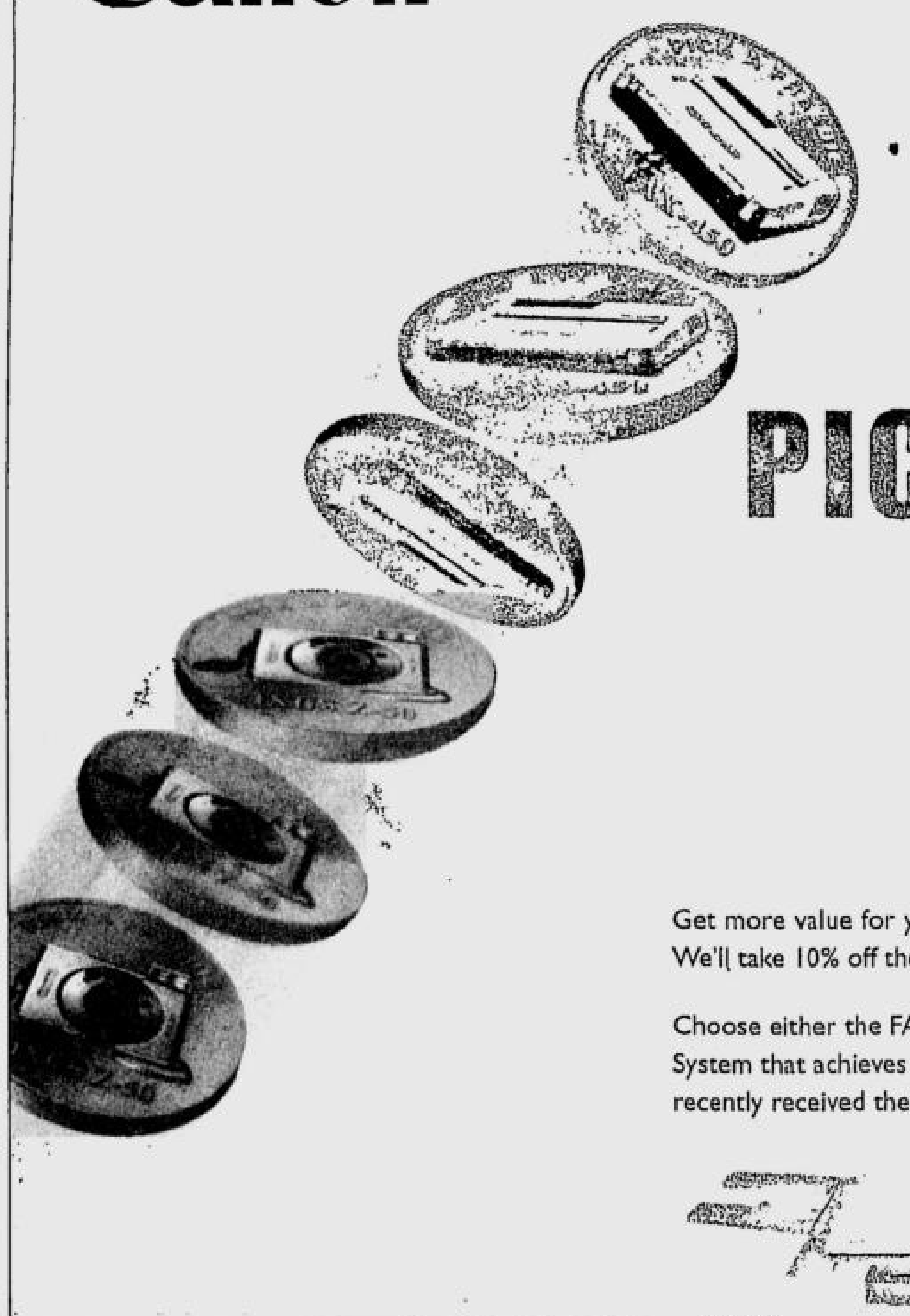

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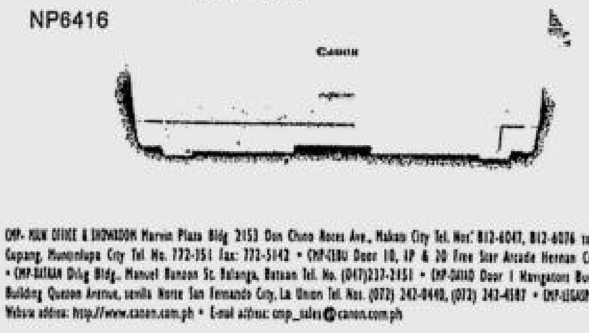

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0954, Series of 2001

Lucent launches partner program

HONG KONG—Lucent Technologies has launched the BusinessPartner Advantage Program in Asia/Pacific, including the Philippines.

Under this initiative, Lucent will support a multi-channel distribution strategy that includes value-added resellers, distributors, systems integrators and independent software vendors.

This program will bring together all of Lucent's indirect channel efforts under a single umbrella program to support "selling to, selling through and selling with" channel partners.

An important aspect of Lucent's Advantage Program is the adoption of a comprehensive accreditation process for channel partners to become trained, tested and certified experts across Lucent's range of solutions.

The BusinessPartner Advantage Program recognizes indirect channel partner's customer relationships and their local market knowledge, and combines these strengths with Lucent's world class technology, extensive global service support and Bell Lab's world-renowned legacy of excellent technical innovation.

"This program is an opportunity for BusinessPartners to enhance their capabilities to build a professionally certified staff, develop support competencies, deliver business results and increase customer satisfaction. Also for our customers, this accreditation ensures a high level of professional services and support from our BusinessPartners," Caldwell added.

Asia/Pacific continues to be a high-growth area for telecommunications. The market holds 33 percent of the world's Internet users, according to the latest statistics from ITU 2000. The region has close to 300 new service providers, excluding those located in China.

This program expands on this current set of BusinessPartners and products to include new convergent solutions, and demonstrates Lucent's continued plans to aggressively grow its sales channel by recognizing the increasing importance of systems integrators, independent software vendors and other technology partners.

"Clearly, we succeed if our various sales channels succeed. Lucent remains committed to helping our partners win in the marketplace. The BusinessPartner program is part of our on-going efforts to aggressively expand the scope and focus of our indirect channel support, providing the resources they need to continue to build their business through Lucent solutions," Caldwell said.

The BusinessPartner's initiative has successfully been launched in Australia, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. Other markets included are New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

US trade deficit up by 16%

WASHINGTON—Americans' appetite for imported cars, clothes and toys sent the US trade deficit surging by a record amount in March, only one month after a narrowing deficit had lifted forecasts for overall economic growth.

The commerce department said Friday that the trade imbalance jumped by 16.1 percent in March, to $31.2 billion. The $4.3 billion jump was the biggest one-month increase on record.

Economists predicted the sharp deterioration in trade in March would force a big downward revision in the gross domestic product for the January-March quarter.

The government originally reported that the GDP grew at a better-than-expected annual rate of 2 percent in the first quarter. That is likely to be cut to just one percent growth when the revised figure is released next Friday, said Merrill Lynch economist Stan Shipley.

"The economy remains weak, but not recessionary," he said.

Some economists saw a silver lining in the higher trade figure, because it reflected a surge in shipments of consumer goods, an indication that demand was staying strong in the sector that accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity.

"This indicates that the consumer is alive and well and fully capable of keeping the economy out of recession," said Joel Naroff, head of his own economic consulting firm in Holland, Pennsylvania.

For March, US exports dipped one percent to $89 billion, reflecting widespread declines in manufactured goods from telecommunications equipment to commercial aircraft.

David Huether, an economist at the National Association of Manufacturers, said US companies were being hurt by weak economic growth overseas and an 8-percent rise in the value of the dollar against major foreign currencies in the past year, which makes US goods more expensive on overseas markets.

"The unsettling trend of near-stagnant export growth that began in June of 2000 continued into March," Huether said. "US export growth is likely to stay soft through December."

The trade deficit through the first three months of this year is running at an annual rate of $365 billion, little changed from last year's all-time high deficit of $368.9 billion.

America's huge trade deficits present a political problem for President George W. Bush, who is hoping to break a seven-year congressional logjam and win approval this year for the negotiating authority he needs to strike new free trade deals.

Bankers, regulators getting better at reducing risks, Greenspan says

WASHINGTON—Bankers and regulators are getting better at reducing risks and breaking a cycle of tighter lending in a slumping economy and expanded credit in a recovery, Federal Reserve Chairperson Alan Greenspan said Friday.

In a speech to state banking regulators, Greenspan said they should not view every bank failure as a deficiency on their part.

"It is not our role to prevent all failures, let alone to guard against every earnings decline," the central bank chief said in a speech prepared for a meeting of the Conference of State Banking Supervisors in Traverse City, Michigan. Copies of the speech were released in Washington.

Greenspan's remarks came a day after a new Fed survey showed that the number of US banks that have tightened standards for credit card loans surged in the spring amid worries consumers would have trouble paying debts in a slowing economy.

The survey also indicated that banks continue to be somewhat tightfisted with business borrowers for similar reasons.

In March, Greenspan said banks that have tightened lending as the economy has sagged shouldn't go overboard and cut off credit to worthy borrowers. *AP*

Dell profits meet targets

DALLAS—Dell Computer Corp., fighting a price-cutting war that it helped start, expects to gain more of the market for personal computers but suffer a decline in second-quarter revenue.

Michael Dell told analysts he was confident in the company's aggressive price-cutting strategy, and he predicted the company will profitably gain market share from its competitors.

Dell said PC sales growth would pick up as companies replace old machines and because of interest in Intel's Pentium 4 chip and Microsoft's XP operating system.

His comments were made after Dell, the world's largest PC maker, posted first quarter earnings of $462 million, or 17 cents per share, down one percent from $466 million, or 17 cents per share a year ago.

That matched the consensus forecast of analysts surveyed by Thomson Financial/First Call.

Dell, based in Round Rock, said revenue was $8.03 billion in the quarter ended May 4, up 10 percent from $7.28 billion a year ago. The company's gross profit margin was 18 percent, even with the previous quarter and down from 20.5 percent a year ago.

Dell warned that softening demand for PCs would cause second-quarter revenue to fall 3 percent to 5 percent and earnings would be flat to down—15 cents to 17 cents per share, a penny below what analysts were projecting.

Shares of Dell fell $1.09 cents, or 4.2 percent, to close at $24.79 in trading Friday on the Nasdaq Stock Market.

Analysts are impressed with Dell's ability to squeeze costs out of suppliers, but they are divided over the wisdom of its aggressive price-cutting to gain PC market share. *AP*

This series on Philippine Banking history is published in the business section of the **Philippine Daily Inquirer** in commemoration of the 150th year of the **Bank of the Philippine Islands** (BPI), formerly *El Banco Español Filipino de Isabel 2* (The Spanish Filipino Bank of Isabel II), the first bank to be established in the Philippines and Southeast Asia.

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Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders
May 23, 2001

To the Stockholders:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Ayala Life Fixed Income Fund will be held on Wednesday, May 23, 2001, at 3:00 p. m. at the Main Dining Hall, 28/F BPI Buendia (Far East Bank) Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City for the following purposes:

1. To elect five directors for the terms 2001-2002;
2. To re-appoint BPI Asset Management and Trust Group as the Investment Manager of the Fund;
3. To re-appoint Joaquin Cunanan and Co. as the external auditor; and
4. To amend the Company's Articles of Incorporation primarily to increase its capitalization from Php5 billion with 50,000,000 shares at Php100 par value per share to Php50 billion with 500,000,000 shares at Php100 par value per share; (Increase in Authorized Capital Stock to be staggered/spread over at least 3 instances over 2 years).

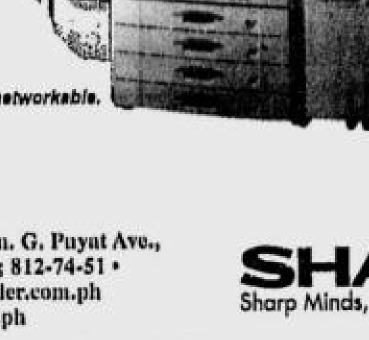
Only stockholders of record at the close of business on February 28, 2001, the record, are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from February 28, 2001 to May 23, 2001, inclusive. It is always important for you, as a stockholder, to exercise your right to vote.

For your convenience, admission to the meeting will be by identification cards only. If you are a stockholder of record and plan to attend, please bring the Voting Ticket attached to the Annual Report sent to you earlier. The Voting Ticket will admit you to the meeting. However, if you are unable to attend the meeting, please fill-up the Voting Ticket.

In order that your stock may be represented at the meeting in case you are not personally present, please complete, sign and date the Voting Ticket and return it promptly to the Office of the Corporate Secretary, 26/F BPI Buendia (Far East Bank) Center, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

For the Board of Directors,

(Sgd.) SABINO PADILLA IV
Corporate Secretary



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LAS PINAS

2Storey Duplex Townhouse Lot Area.149sqm Flr Area: 170sqm each DBP Vill. LP 8900151/09179075788

MAKATI

Experience The New City Fort Boni P8 2M 671-4421

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PACIFIC PLAZA
Ayala Ave Rush 16M
285m² 2 Pkg 0917-5414155

Rockwell 2BR 3BR The Hottest In Town 671-4421

Rockwell Sale/Rent 637-7824

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Studio 1BR, 2BR, 3BR & 4BR Sale 0917-5414155

Salcedo Park Cond. Mkti 180m² to 224m² 3 to 4br P50T/m² Tel. 899-8104

Studio PRINCE PLZA II ful furn, 3.5M (neg) Call 5635042

MANILA

Nr. Espana FA150m² 4 2M Blumentrit New 4134411

MANDALUYONG

Wack Wack Thomes 93m² 2BR 3M 531-2021 • 0917-3955738

PASIG

Dona Juana 3BR P3.8M 915-5177 0917-5325440

PARC Chateau 2BR FF 1PS P12.5M • 6337601-03

Pioneer Hilands 3BR Pkg 114m² East VW 681-2457

Tektite East 220sqm 2 Parking Pgr 1481788421

THE PARC ROYALE Raquel Pager 1481788421

The Prestige Tower Raquel • Pager 1481788421

Renaissance 2000 3Brms P10M • Pager 1481788421

VV2 148sqm P6M 631-9440

VV2 68sqm Mo Inc P12.5T P1.8M 631-9440 • 635-6217

San Miguel Ave 86sqm 1 Parking Pgr 1481788421

QUEZON CITY

•Blue Ridge A Only P6.5M 3BR Attic 2CG 671-4421

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term rent to own swap lot car 9120647 9124428 4381161

Narra Hls 915-5177 3BR

PANAY 3BR P5M 722-8951

Rent / Sale 2-3BR RFO Term Call 414-0573

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MRw/TB P5.5M • 928-2497

Scout Townhses P5-7M 3sty 5BR 4TB • 928-3267

•Spacious Almost New 250m² 3BR Attic 671-4421

Teachers Vill QC 3BR 3TB 1CG P2.5M • 928-2497

T/Hse Nr Ateneo 426-0189

TSora 3BR+1md 2TB P2.5M 2cgrge DBO 0917-8143792

Woodside NMla 915-5177

SAN JUAN

AIC Gold Tower 2BR w/den FA159m² • 928-1469

Francis Court San Juan LA200 Flr269 • 928-2497

Horseshoe Drive 3BR Sn Juan P6.5M 915-5177

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

OTHER AREAS

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Palayan City NE Farm Lot 7ha@P30/m² w/ 3ha quarry (neg) Call 0919-2047615

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MANILA

Apt for Rent Reposo St. Sta Mesa Tel. 715-7132

QUEZON CITY

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SAN JUAN

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HOUSE

PASIG

Kawilihan Vill 1BR 50m² Secured P10T/mo 671-4421

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

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Manhattan Square Condo Salcedo Vill Mkt 2BR FF II Salcedo Place Condo FF 2BR 2CG Call 633-1692

Mkt. Asia Tower 1-2-3BR 751-8342 • 6337601-03

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Studio 1BR, 2BR, 3BR & 4BR Lease 0917-5414155

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Beautiful 0917-8986655

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw Studio Furn 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

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PASIG

4BR 3TB Rosemarie Lane Pasig Rose 671-0900

AIC Condo Ortigas 2BR P30T/mo Call • 671-4421

Ortigas Condos 1-3BRS Furnsh or VF 681-2457

QUEZON CITY

4BR 3TB Kalipunan QC Rose 671-0900 • 0917-4045291

QC Twnhse Class 4BR 3TB Acsble P15Thouse 9328965

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SHAW BLVD. - 151.36sqm
Com'l Unit near
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PONDEROSA DORMITORY
#41 Aurora Blvd.,
Q.C., near UERM
CALL: 715-1271 to 74 (Gay)

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Wanted To Buy Shaw Twr 1Bdrm Pgr 1481788421

BUSINESS RENTAL

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PARC I&II 7264371, 150-359801

400sqm Office/Warehouse CHB Fence w/gate San Ignacio St. Mand. 8900151/09179075788

BNew @ Fort Boni P350/m² At The IT Zone 671-4421

G/F Ayala Ave. 818-1696

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

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For Rent & Immediate Occupancy
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PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

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98 Grace 258T 731-3492

98Pregio 340T 731-3492

99 H100 330T 731-3492

MERCEDES

98 MB100D 390T 731-3492

TOYOTA

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99Lncr 2dr GSR 385T 8382015

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Japan: ELF Canter Porter T-Ace Suzuki 2/4WD Bongo All Types Body 912-6976

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Bnew L300 8254058 8261045

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

H-100/Honda 9207360

HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

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MB 100 Van 641-1859

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STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

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CUTE Spitz Puppies 2 mos. 722-4219/723-8061

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Female STORE CREW
19 to 25 Yrs. Old 721-9376

MAIDS DIRECT HIRE 7284971

Med Tech S.F.Lic 250 +ALLW TEL 7111967/7126452 2640 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz Mla

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Sec. Computer 881-0133

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Earn $/Wk 0917-8160250 skybiz.com/gobarretto

FOLLY FURNISHED & OPRTNAL BILLIARD,BAR,KTV,LIVE BAND EQPTS W/REG. CUSTOMERS FOR SALE PH500K NEGO Call 3648554 or 09192754240

I need Medicines Hospital Supplies & Equipt Any Quantity 4199202 Kristine

Resto Greenhills Call/Text 0917-816 1522

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Cash/Consign 373-8821

TShirt Sale 4383147

Water Refilling Station Computer Shop 4 Sale w/ Existing Clients Call 535-0373 • 0919-3549253

Work From Home 8937903

NOTICE OF LOSS

BPI Stock Cert. 00149064 in the name Ma. Theresa B. Rama has been declared lost. (PDI-May 7,14,21 & 28 2001)

Notice is hereby given on the loss of University Physicians Services Inc. Stock Certificates Nos. 958 for 48 shares; 959 for 31 shares; 1194 for 24 shares under the name of Ramon S. Suter if no contest received, new stock certificates will be issued. (PDI-May 21, 28 & June 4, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

PRAYER TO HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, Thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen.

Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without stating one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this as soon as your favor has been granted. MTO

PRAYER TO ST. JUDE

O, Holy St. Jude Apostle and Martyr, great in virtue, rich in miracle, near kinsman to Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need, to you I have recourse from the depth of my heart. I humbly beg your great power to come to my assistance, help me in present and most urgent need, in return, I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. St. Jude, pray for us and all who invoke thy aid. Pray this 9X a day for 9 consecutive days. On the 8th day your prayer will be answered. MTO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

11 May 2001

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Housing Authority is inviting interested contractors who have completed similar contracts (at least 50% of the similar contract cost) within the last three (3) years and accredited with PCAB/IAC, to prequalify and bid for the contracts listed as follows:

Bid Package	Scope of Works	Project Cost (PhP M)	PCAB Category	IAC Classification
A. Provision of Roof for Three (3) Existing Basketball Courts, Phase IA, Phase IC, and Phase II, Area I, DDDP	Building construction	4.8	B	Medium A Bldg.
B. Rehabilitation and Construction of Community Facilities-Phase IB, Phase II Area 4, Phase II Area 2, DDDP	Building construction	1.5	C	Small B Bldg.
C. KBCC Building Improvement, DDDP	Building construction	1.6	C	Small B Bldg.
D. Construction of Barangay Hall/Stage, Punta, Sta. Ana Manila (re-advertisement)	Building construction	0.50	C	Small B Bldg.

I. Pre-C Forms, bid documents/plans as well as other information are available at the BAC Secretariat, 2nd Floor, NHA Main Building, Diliman, Quezon City, upon submission of the following: (a) Letter of Intent; (b) PCAB/IAC license with Official Receipt; (c) Certificate of Completion/Acceptance and Contract Agreement of completed similar project; and (d) Presentation of original documents for authentication purposes.

II. Payment of non-refundable fee of PhP 2,500.00 for Letter A and PhP 500.00 for Letters B, C & D shall be received only from authorized representatives.

III. Bid deposits shall be in the form of cash, manager's or cashier's check.

IV. Deadline of submission of LOI/other documents is on May 24, 2001. All other subsequent activities will be announced through a bid bulletin.

V. The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive formality of any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) ATTY. EDGARDO D. PAMINTUAN
General Manager

(PDI – May 16 20 & 21 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC), thru the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC, BAC-ITR), invites qualified bidders by way of sealed bids for the supply and delivery of:

16	NOS	PRINTER, DOT MATRIX, 132 COLS., 24 PINS
6	NOS	PRINTER, HEWLETT PACKARD, DESK JET, COLORED
50	NOS	PRINTER, LASER, BLACK AND WHITE
10	NOS	COMPUTER SET, PENTIUM III, 600 MHZ (MINI.) BRANDED
2	NOS	COMPUTER NOTEBOOK
35	NOS	UPS, 500WATTS
1	NO.	FULL PRODUCT, OFFICE 2000 PROFESSIONAL
15	NOS	LICENSED, OFFICE 2000 PROFESSIONAL
1	NO	DIGITAL VIDEO CAMERA
1	NO	PROFESSIONAL CAMERA
2	NOS	PAPER BINDER, HEAVY DUTY, MANUAL
2	NOS	PAPER CUTTER, HEAVY DUTY, MANUAL
4	NOS	TIME, DATE AND NLRC LOGO RECEIVING MACHINE, HEAVY DUTY
4	NOS	TIME AND ATTENDANCE RECORDER, ELECTRONIC, W/ BIOMETRIC TECH.
1	NO	PAYROLL SYSTEM SOFTWARE
2	NOS	PLAIN PAPER PHOTO COPIER
240	SQ.M.	PREMIUM CARPET, 100% POLYPROPYLENE BCF YARN, 20 OZ./SQ. YD, USA
1	SYS.	SOUND SYSTEM FOR NLRC CONFERENCE ROOM
1	NOS	TV COLORED, 35" SONY
1	NOS	VCD PLAYER/RECORDER, SONY
1.	NOS	VHS PLAYER/RECORDER, SONY

Interested bidders may obtain further information from the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Executive Clerk, 7th Floor, PPSTA Bldg., No. 4, Banawe Ave. cor. P. Florentino Sts., Quezon City. Meeting/bidding will be held at the Conference Room, 6th flr. The bidding schedules are as follows:

JUNE 6; 2001, 10:00 A.M. - Pre bid meeting
JUNE 13, 2001, 10:00 A.M. - Last day of submission of prequalification requirements
JUNE 20, 2001, 10:00 A.M. - Last day of submission of bid proposals & Opening of bids

NLRC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as, waive any defect or informality on the bids received, accept the offer most advantageous to the government and does not guarantee that any award shall be made. Its decision shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) PERLITA B. VELASCO
Chairman, BAC, BAC-ITR

(PDI--May 21, 22 & 23, 2001)

The EMBASSY OF FRANCE cordially requests all Philippine citizens who have participated in any of its official technological and scientific exchange programs, including those who have been invited through French public organizations like CFME-ACTIM or the Cultural Department of the French Embassy, to join the first General Membership Meeting and Reception of the

PHILIPPINES-FRANCE PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
on Tuesday, 22 MAY 2001 at 6:00 PM
at the Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Makati

Please contact any of the following persons immediately:

Preparatory Committee

Ms. Marilyn Golangco, Philippine Constructors Association
(Tel. 724-6115; Fax 725-3716)
Mr. Franck Hebert, French Embassy
(Tel. 810-1981; Fax 813-1908)
Mr. Pierre Daignieres, French Embassy
(Tel. 811-1001-4; Fax 811-1033)
Mr. Roger Ferrari, French Business Association in the Philippines
(Tel. 840-3025; Fax 818-6138)

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INQUIRER
TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Anthemss

Q. Isn't Japan's *Kimigayo* the world's shortest national anthem? (*posed by PDI sports editor Al S. Mendoza in a recent column*)

A. *Kimigayo* (literally, "His Majesty's Reign") shares the distinction with Jordan's *Long Live the King* and San Marino's *Serenissima Repubblica di San Marino* ("Most Serene Republic of San Marino") as the world's shortest national anthems at four lines each. Greece's *Innos pros tin Eleftherian* ("The Hymn to Liberty"), is the world's longest at 158 verses. On another score, the lyrics of *Kimigayo* are the world's oldest, dating back from a 9th-century poem. But the oldest music is that of *Wilhelmus van Nassouwe* ("William of Nassau") of the Netherlands, which was composed in 1568

Ooops! A few years ago the Greek capital of Athens hosted a football match between a Greek team and a team from China. Before the match began, music was played over the stadium's sound system and the visiting Chinese players all stood to attention, thinking that it was the Greek national anthem. The Greek players and spectators knew that it was not their country's anthem, but they too sprang to attention, assuming the music was the Chinese anthem. Then, as everyone in the stadium continued to stand rigidly to attention, a voice boomed over the speakers praising a brand of toothpaste. The music had been part of an advertising message.

Past Forward. This day in 1927 Charles Lindbergh landed his plane, the *Spirit of St. Louis*, in Paris for the first solo flight across the Atlantic. A crowd of 100,000 turned out to welcome the 25-year-old American pilot as he arrived at Le Bourget airport. Lindbergh took off from Roosevelt Field in Long Island, New York, the day before and was airborne for 33 hours and 40 minutes.

WORD WATCH

Talaria (tuh ler i uh) the winged shoes worn by Mercury, the messenger of the gods in Roman mythology; he was also the god of commerce, manual skill, eloquence and cleverness

PDI -- May 21, 2001

Palamig
FOOD STORE

PALAMIG MUNA

This summer, stop over at any of the following SeaOil service stations: Mindanao Avenue, Quirino Highway, Gulod, Novaliches, Pasig Boulevard and Edsa corner P. Tuazon. Aptly called Palamig Food Store, this one-stop convenience shop offers everything—from soft drinks to shampoos. Other SeaOil Service Stations and Palamig Food Stores will open soon to cater to motorists all over Metro Manila and the provinces as well.

LIBU-LIBONG CASH PRIZES ARAW-ARAW
P5,00

ROBINSONS WINNERS

Shoppers residing in Cavite and in nearby towns recently received a windfall from Robinson's Place Imus Food Court's "Libreng Libu-libong Cash Prizes Araw Araw". Among the lucky recipients were Rowelito Garcia (second from left) from Las Piñas City and Helen Fernando (third from left) from Imus. Photo shows the winners receiving their cash prizes from Robinsons Malls ad and promo officer Rogie Lee (left) and Robinsons Malls ad and promo manager Tess C. Miranda (right).

BITS & Clips

A new stadium opens

THE NEWEST Nike Stadium flagship store recently opened its doors at the second level of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Makati City. The store is replete with the latest quality Nike apparel and footwear for various sporting activities ranging from tennis to basketball, running, golf and swimming at affordable prices. If you've always wanted to don Nike products from head to foot, then Nike Stadium is the store for you. You can also visit other Nike Stadium outlets located at Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Alabang Town Center Expansion Wing, Pavilion Mall, Biñan, Laguna, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Bacoor, SM City Cebu, Limketkai Center Cagayan de Oro City, Isetann Cinema Complex and at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

Creating a 'Commotion by the Ocean'

NICKELODEON, the world's leading TV channel for kids, is bringing its unique style of fun to Subic Bay, Philippines. Commotion by the ocean will be a double dose of fun with a treasure hunt competition and a beach party filled with fun and games for kids on May 20 at the White Rock Beach Resort in Subic Bay. Nickelodeon also has an extra treat for Commotion goers with a special guest performance by the popular band A Teens, straight from Sweden.

Printing exhibit ongoing

INSPIRED by the successful "Printworkz A.D. 2000" last year, Anglo-Pacific Exhibits and Convention Center (Apexco) launched its sequel with "Printworkz 2 circ. 2001" May 9 at the SM City North Edsa. It is a "14-day battle royal" among the best in the industry, which includes Canon, Epson and Hewlett-Packard. SM City's west side lobby is transformed into one-stop center for printing resources for two weeks (May 9 to 22) as high quality printer parts, supplies, services and special applications from the industry leaders virtually flood this battleground of print-mania at Printworkz 2 circ.2001. Inquiries may be directed to Apexco Center at 712-1659 and 711-6617 or at pager number 1277-69441.

Diwa sponsors textbook educators' forum

DIWA Learning Systems sponsors a series of seminars for teachers for SY 2001-2002. Known as the "Diwa Textbook Educators' Forum (DTEF)," this seminar series aims to help educators in their professional development, either through utility seminars or value-enhancing seminars. The DTEF is a joint project of Diwa's product management group and Diwa DistriNet Inc. (DDN), Diwa's franchise division. The next DTEF is scheduled on May 22 (Classroom Management) at the St. Dominic Academy in Pulilan, Bulacan, and on May 26, (Utility Seminars—Grade School/High School–science and math) at St. Michael's College in Laguna.

PLDT IDD'S 'GRASYA' WINS ANVIL

PLDT IDD'S "Grasya" campaign was recently honored with the coveted Anvil Award of Excellence as the Most Outstanding PR program in support of marketing advocacy/corporate image–product during the 36th Anvil Awards. The Anvil is the Oscar of public relations practice in the Philippines and is held annually by the Public Relations Society of the Philippines. At the awarding ceremonies during the 36th Anvil awards night at Hotel Intercontinental Manila are (from left) PRSP president Honesto Isleta, Anvil Awards chair Evelyn del Rosario, Ace Saatchi and Saatchi VP/management supervisor Gigi Garcia, PLDT SVP for GMM retail business group Ito Ramirez, Anvil board of judges chair justice Artemio Panganiban and Anvil Awards co-chair Roel Ramirez.

PHIL-DATA INKS CONTRACT

Phil-Data Business Systems, Inc. recently signed a contract with Franke Contract Group (Phils.), Inc. for purchase of Dell computers. Shown from left are Jeff Brosula, Phil-Data sales executive; Ching Pingkian, Phil-Data sales manager for corporate IT solutions; Balthasar Wicki, Franke Contract Group general manager; Dino Bartolome, Phil-Data AVP for corporate IT division; Raymond Caliva, Franke Contract Group sales director and Gunther Lang, Franke Contract Group manufacturing director. Phil-Data is direct distributor of Dell Computers.

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"Set me as a seal on your heart,
set me as a seal on your arm.
For love is strong as death; its jealousy lasting...
No flood can extinguish love nor river submerge it."

Song of Songs 8:6-7

Our Dearly Beloved

MA. SUSANA AVELLANA-QUIMPO

Peacefully joined her Creator on 17 May 2001 at the age of 45.

Her bereaved husband **Reynaldo**; children **Kristine**, **Katrina**, **Karen**, **Miguel** and **Carlos**; mother-in-law **Gloria Mijares-Quimpo**; sister, brothers and sisters-in-law **Maricel**, **Francis** and **Teri**, **Eddie**, **Chito** and **Ates**, and **Albert**; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law **Niña** and **Gil Martelino**, **Jun Quimpo**, **Roselle** and **Selmar Maribojo**, **Regie** and **Rudy Alba**, and **Rod** and **Marilou Quimpo**; nephews and nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Chapel of the Sacred Heart at the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Sacred Heart Street (formerly Dao Street), San Antonio Village, Makati City. Daily Masses will be offered at 8:00 PM.

Holy Mass will be celebrated on 23 May 2001 at 8:00 AM. Interment will follow at the Everlasting Care Gardens of the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

In Loving Commemoration of the
First Death Anniversary
of Our Beloved

ESTER BOTIS MONTAÑO

July 4, 1940 - May 21, 2000

Today Holy Masses will be said at:

6:00 AM	St. Peregrine Laziosi Shrine, Tunasan, Muntinlupa City
6:00 AM	Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish, Muntinlupa City
6:00 AM	St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish, Alabang, Muntinlupa City
6:20 AM	St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City
6:00 AM	Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
6:00 AM	St. Polycarp Parish, Cabuyao, Laguna
6:30 AM	Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, Sun Valley, Parañaque City
6:30 AM	Sto. Rosario Parish, Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna
6:30 AM	St. John Bosco Church, Pasay Road, Makati City
7:00 AM	Sta. Clara Parish, Pasay City
7:00 AM	St. Mary Euphrasia Parish, Batangas City
7:15 AM	St. Joseph Cathedral, Tagbilaran, Bohol
8:00 AM	Sto. Niño Shrine, Cebu Magallanes, Cebu City
6:00 PM	St. Raphael Parish, Park Avenue, Pasay City
6:00 PM	Espiritu Santo Parish Church, Tayuman, Sta. Cruz, Manila
6:00 PM	Our Lady of the Pillar Parish, Las Piñas City
	Pink Sisters Adoracion Chapel, Tagaytay City

From your loving husband Terry; daughters Helen, Chin and Amy, only son Terry, Jr.; son-in-law James; daughter-in-law Wendee; grandsons Carl James and Tyron John; relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers. Thank you and may God bless you as richly as we have been blessed by you.

"The memory of your goodness will always remain in our minds and hearts forever."

CAPT. FERNANDO "COTING" R. CARAG

de Tuguegarao, Cagayan y
Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque

Entregó su alma al Creador el 19 de mayo de 2001
en la edad de 75 años.

Sus desconsolados, esposa ***Lucing Canillas***, *hijos* ***Dodo*** *y* ***Colly Ricerra***, ***Malu*** *y* ***Bong Franco***, ***Connie*** *y* ***Romy Vergara***, ***Nietos Andrea*** *y* ***Miguel***, ***Patricia***, ***Katrina***, ***Miggy***, ***Joey*** *y* ***Marty***, ***Kim*** *y* ***Carla***, *agradecen una oración por el eterno descanso de su alma.*

El Cadáver se halla de cuerpo presente en St. Gabriel Hall, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish, Sun Valley Subdivision, Parañaque, donde se celebrará la misa funeral a las diez de la mañana, el dia 22 de mayo. El entierro se verificará seguidamente en Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

SR. PILAR R. PAGSANGHAN, FMA

(Institute of the Daughters of
Mary Help of Christians or
Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco)

one of the first Filipina FMA

returned to the Father's home on May 19, 2001, Saturday, at the age of 79, and 42 years as a Salesian Sister.

Her remains lie in state at the Don Bosco School Chapel, 3500 V. Mapa Extension, Sta. Mesa, Manila

Interment will be on May 22, 2001, Tuesday after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at Don Bosco School, Sta. Mesa.

MARIA QUIAL PABLICO

of Villasol, Agutaya, Palawan

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 20, 2001 at the age of 78.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City

Interment will be on Saturday, May 26, 2001 at 3:00 PM at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

LORI G. ESTRADA

Peacefully joined our Creator on May 16, 2001 at the age of 74.

His beloved children Charles and Esperanza, his grandchildren, his sister Amy Losey, Godilla, his sisters-in-law, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends requests the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at 24 Luciano Street, Project 4, Quezon City.

His mortal remains will be cremated to rejoin Mother Earth.

"My soul finds rest to God alone; from Him comes my salvation." Psalms 62:2

Our Dearly Beloved Inay

JANUARIA CORPUS ENTIENZA, R.N.

(1913-2001)

Who has now peacefully joined the loving grace of her Creator on May 16, 2001, widow of the late Severino C. Entienza Sr. and sister of Mercedes Corpus vda. de Platero.

Her bereaved children NINFA; and husband Engr. Gregorio A. Sanchez; NORA and husband Dr. Quirino A. Dubria, Jr., FERDINAND and wife Nellie Lachay, CYNTHIA; GLORIA; SEVERINO, Jr. and wife Teodora Coronel, and grandchildren MICHELLE, HAZEL, ETHEL, MA. THERESA, PAM and Chris, KRISTYN and Michael, JUSTINE and Tom, LIEZL, KAREN and Bernard, BUTCH, PORTIA, JANICE; and great grandchild KYLE, and her relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

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BIGGEST OPENING TO OUTSIDERS SINCE 1970s

Exxon, Shell to invest in Saudi gas program

DALLAS—Exxon Mobil Corp. and Royal Dutch/Shell led a group of eight oil companies that would take part in a $25-billion gas development program in Saudi Arabia, the country's biggest opening of its oil and gas industry to outsiders since the 1970s.

The Western companies will help Saudi Arabia convert its utilities from oil burning to natural gas, which would free up more of the kingdom's crude oil for export.

The other companies selected were BP, Total Fina Elf SA, Conoco Inc., Phillips Petroleum Co., Occidental Petroleum Corp. and Enron Corp.

Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil, the world's largest publicly traded oil company, Shell, BP and Phillips were picked to participate in the biggest of the projects, a $15-billion development in South Ghawar, according to the official Saudi Press Agency.

The lead company was not announced.

Exxon Mobil also was selected to lead a smaller Red Sea project that also involves Enron and Occidental. Exxon Mobil said the combined investment in both projects would total $20 billion.

Shell, Total Fina Elf and Conoco won roles in development of gas at Shaybah in Southeast Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia's state-owned energy company, Saudi Aramco, will be an equity owner in the projects.

Saudi Arabia nationalized its oil fields in 1975 after tension caused by the Arab oil embargo against the West that began two years earlier, and closed its energy exploration and production sectors to foreign investment.

Although locked out of the production of energy, Exxon Mobil has invested $5 billion in refining and petrochemical joint ventures in the country and said it is also the largest foreign purchaser of crude oil and other hydrocarbons from the state-run oil company, Saudi Aramco.

In trading Friday, shares of Exxon Mobil rose $1.47 to $90.20, Royal Dutch shares rose $1.97 to $61.94, BP shares rose $1.35 to $54.40, Phillips shares rose $1.65 to $67.52, and Enron shares rose $2.70 to $54.90.

Shareholders approve buyout of diamond giant De Beers

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—By an overwhelming margin, shareholders approved an $18.7-billion buyout of De Beers, the South African diamond giant that produces almost half the world's annual output of the gems.

The buyout by mining giant Anglo American, the Oppenheimer family and Botswana's Debswana diamond company marks the end of an era for De Beers, the once powerful cartel that angered governments with its control of diamond prices worldwide.

The company, which has been listed on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange since 1893, will be delisted on June 1 and turned into a private company.

De Beers produces more than 30 million carats of diamonds annually—almost half of the world production—from mines in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Tanzania.

The deal is expected to bolster the South African economy by bringing $3.5 billion into the country. The money will come from shares sold by South African shareholders.

The deal still requires final High Court approval in South Africa, but Reserve Bank Governor Tito Mboweni described the buyout as a "wonderful opportunity for South Africa." He said the bank would seek to buy as much as possible of the $3.5 billion coming into the country.

Shareholders initially balked at an original $17.1 billion offer from the consortium. But the group won support when it sweetened the offer to $15.35 in cash and 0.45 of an Anglo American share for each De Beers share held.

Although a small group of dissident shareholders said the consortium failed to present a full range of alternative options, about 95 percent of the shareholders approved the offer. At least 75 percent of the votes were needed for approval.

De Beers closed down 2.2 percent Friday at 363 rands ($45.75). Anglo-American closed down 3.2 percent at 135.4 rands ($17.06).

Shareholder approval also bolstered the rand, which has slipped about 7 percent since the beginning of the year, as dealers saw the deal as a boost to the South African economy. At the end of business Friday, the rand had improved by four cents to 7.93 to the dollar.

Anglo American was founded by De Beer's chairman Nicky Oppenheimer's grandfather, Ernest, who also seized control of De Beers, which was founded by Cecil Rhodes.

"Diamonds have always been the Oppenheimer's first love," Nicky Oppenheimer said after the vote.

Ernest Oppenheimer's son, Harry, is credited with creating massive demand for diamonds by marketing the gems as the ultimate gift of love—an advertising campaign that culminated with the famous "A Diamond is Forever" slogan.

Under Harry Oppenheimer, De Beers became a powerful cartel, controlling the worldwide price of diamonds by signing exclusive contracts with most of the world's diamond mines and stockpiling the gems in times of great supply.

The United States fumed when the cartel, fearing a glut in the market, refused to fill its massive orders for industrial diamonds during World War II. The US Department of Justice also has investigated the company's anticompetitive practices and barred it from directly conducting business in the United States.

Anglo American currently holds 32 percent of the stock in De Beers, the Oppenheimers hold 2 percent and Debswana, a joint venture between De Beers and the Botswana government, holds 5 percent.

After the buyout, Anglo will own 45 percent of the company, the Oppenheimers 45 percent and Debswana 10 percent.

Anglo American is a major South African mining group with interests in gold, platinum, coal, base and strategic metals, and forestry.

Nicky Oppenheimer said that although De Beers would no longer be issuing an annual report it would continue to issue reports in the interests of full transparency. *AP*

Dow's break signals buying time

NEW YORK—Wall Street is boasting that the Dow industrials have broken through a major resistance level. That's trader lingo for, "It's time to buy again."

But how do market observers know when a big rally like this past week's is bona fide or at least very significant? The answer in this case, they say, is that the Dow reclaimed the 11,000 level that it relinquished eight months ago. And it reached that milestone amid heavy trading in which individuals, not just institutions, got back into the market.

"This was a level that for one reason or another it had resisted, and now all of sudden—boom!" said Richard Dickson, a technical analyst at Hilliard Lyons in Louisville, Kentucky.

The market's other major indexes tested their own barriers, with the Nasdaq composite index continuing to weave in and out of the 2,200 level, as it has done throughout the month. And the Standard & Poor's 500—the market's broadest measure—on Wednesday closed above 1,275 for the first time since Feb. 20.

But analysts said the Dow's move was the most significant because 11,000 mark had eluded the blue chips the longest. Until Wednesday, the average hadn't closed above that mark since Sept. 14.

The market obviously isn't breaking through or testing such important figures—which are known in the market as technical support levels—all by itself. It has key fundamental factors in its favor, including a healthier-looking economy and prospects for improved profits.

The catalyst for a 342-point surge in the Dow on Wednesday, for example, was the Federal Reserve's 0.5 percentage point interest rate cut, its fifth such reduction this year.

A report showing the economy is strengthening also helped boost the market. On Thursday, the Conference Board reported its Index of Leading Economic Indicators—a key gauge of future business activity—rose 0.1 percent in April, advancing after two straight monthly declines.

However, psychology controls the markets swings as much as economic fundamentals do. Investors use big, round numbers like 11,000 to make trading decisions as much as they depend on evidence of a sound economy and growth in profits and sales.

"There are a lot of great fundamental things going on in the marketplace. But you have to have technical support to back up the fundamentals," said Thomas F. Lydon Jr., president of Global Trends Investments in Newport Beach, California. *AP*

Ford undecided on broader tire recall

DETROIT—Ford Motor Co. says it has not decided whether to demand a broader recall of Firestone tires, despite a published report that it is leaning toward such a demand.

A report published Friday in The New York Times said the automaker had decided there were problems with tires beyond the 6.5 million recalled last year.

But Ford spokesperson Ken Zino said the company has made "no conclusions.".

Ford and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration had a closed-door meeting Thursday night, according to a source familiar with the talks who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Ford officials reportedly told NHTSA the company believed the Wilderness AT tires had a defective design and that the company would replace all those tires already installed on their vehicles, regardless of whether Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. recalled them.

NHTSA spokesperson Rae Tyson would not confirm such a meeting took place.

Zino said: "We meet regularly."

Bridgestone/Firestone spokeswoman Jill Bratina said the tiremaker believes last year's recall was "more than adequate to protect the safety of the public."

Bridgestone/Firestone recalled 6.5 million tires in August, many of which were sold as original equipment on Ford Explorer sport utility vehicles. The recall included all 15-inch ATX and ATX II tires and the 15-inch Wilderness AT tires built at its plant in Decatur, Illinois.

NHTSA is investigating reports of at least 174 US deaths and more than 700 injuries involving blowouts, tread separations and other problems with the tires.

In several of the accidents, the Explorer rolled over, raising questions about the safety of the world's best-selling sport utility vehicle.

While Ford has maintained all along the problem was exclusively with the tires, Bridgestone/Firestone insists the relationship between the tire and vehicle should be considered.

The NHTSA investigation is expected to take at least another three months, Tyson said.

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WITH LUCIO TAN SELLING

Gov't decides to regain PNB control

TAN

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT is holding on to Philippine National Bank.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura disclosed in a news briefing on Friday that the government has dropped its plan to sell its stake in PNB along with the stocks held by beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan.

Tan, he said, was open to handing over his stake in PNB to the government. Should this push through, the government would regain control of PNB.

"I believe he (Tan) is open to the reverse privatization. I think they are talking about it already," Buenaventura told reporters.

A ranking finance official, who requested anonymity, said the government has given up on its plan to sell its 16-percent stake in PNB together with Tan's 67 percent.

The government, he said, has conceded that a joint sale will fail, considering PNB's falling share prices and dismal financial performance.

"A joint sale at this time is just going to fail like the first time. The government is instead concentrating on finalizing the terms for the re-nationalization, or reverse privatization, of PNB," he said.

A recent SGV & Co. audit of PNB placed the bank's book value at P50 a share from P60 last year.

Last week, PNB reported a net loss of P2 billion in the first quarter of the year, more than double last year's first-quarter loss.

Apart from buying Tan's stake, the government is also considering converting a P15-billion emergency loan it extended to PNB last year into equities in the bank.

Converting this loan into equities will give the government a 51-percent stake in PNB.

Buenaventura stressed that although the Macapagal administration is now set on regaining control of PNB, the long-term plan is still to privatize the bank.

"The intention of the government is still to privatize PNB down the road, once the bank recovers from its losses. The government stands to gain also because by then, it will be able to sell its shares for a higher price," he said.

A ranking finance official said the plan was to issue new shares from which the government could convert PNB's debts into equities at a price still to be determined.

The Department of Finance is currently studying whether a government buyback at a price higher than PNB's book value will break the rules of the Commission on Audit and Committee on Privatization.

"We still have to check if there are COA or COP rules that we have to know about pricing," one person familiar with the matter said.

Last week, the government canceled a $400-million loan from the World Bank because of its inability to fully privatize PNB.

Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said the government would instead negotiate another loan, also with the World Bank, within the next six to 12 months, and that it would press for less stringent conditions, preferably without PNB in the picture.

PNB is currently in the hands of beer and tobacco tycoon Lucio Tan, whose combined stake in the bank stands at 67 percent.

FedEx says it has no plan to leave Subic or open new hub

By Abigail L. Ho

FEDERAL Express Corp., the world's leading air express delivery service provider, clarified on Friday that it had no plans to move out of its Subic Bay hub or open a new, although it confirmed that it was currently evaluating three other airports in the country.

FedEx Philippines country manager Samuel David told reporters FedEx was interested in investing in the Ninoy Aquino, Clark and Cebu international airports because they affected the Memphis, Tennessee-based carrier's operations here, but it would not convert any of these into a new hub.

"(We need) only one hub per country, and there is no need to put up two hubs in Asia," David stressed.

FedEx chose the Subic Bay International Airport as its Asian hub because of its strategic location in the region and its pool of skilled, English-speaking workers.

David said Subic Bay continues to meet FedEx's business requirements and that the company continues to enjoy the hospitality of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

"It's an investment that we made, and we continue to support long-term investments," he said.

FedEx Asia and Pacific managing director Alex Yim disclosed that FedEx was working with the SBMA to repave the Subic Bay runway and improve the approach landing light system as well as the touchdown zone lighting to make the airport safer, especially during bad weather.

FedEx is betting that intra-Asian traffic will grow enough this year to cover for a potential weakness in shipments to the United States.

David said Fedex was optimistic regional shipments within the region would remain robust despite the slowdown in the US economy.

He said although US shipments accounted for 80 percent of Fedex traffic in the region, intra-Asian trade was growing at a much faster rate even during the Asian economic meltdown.

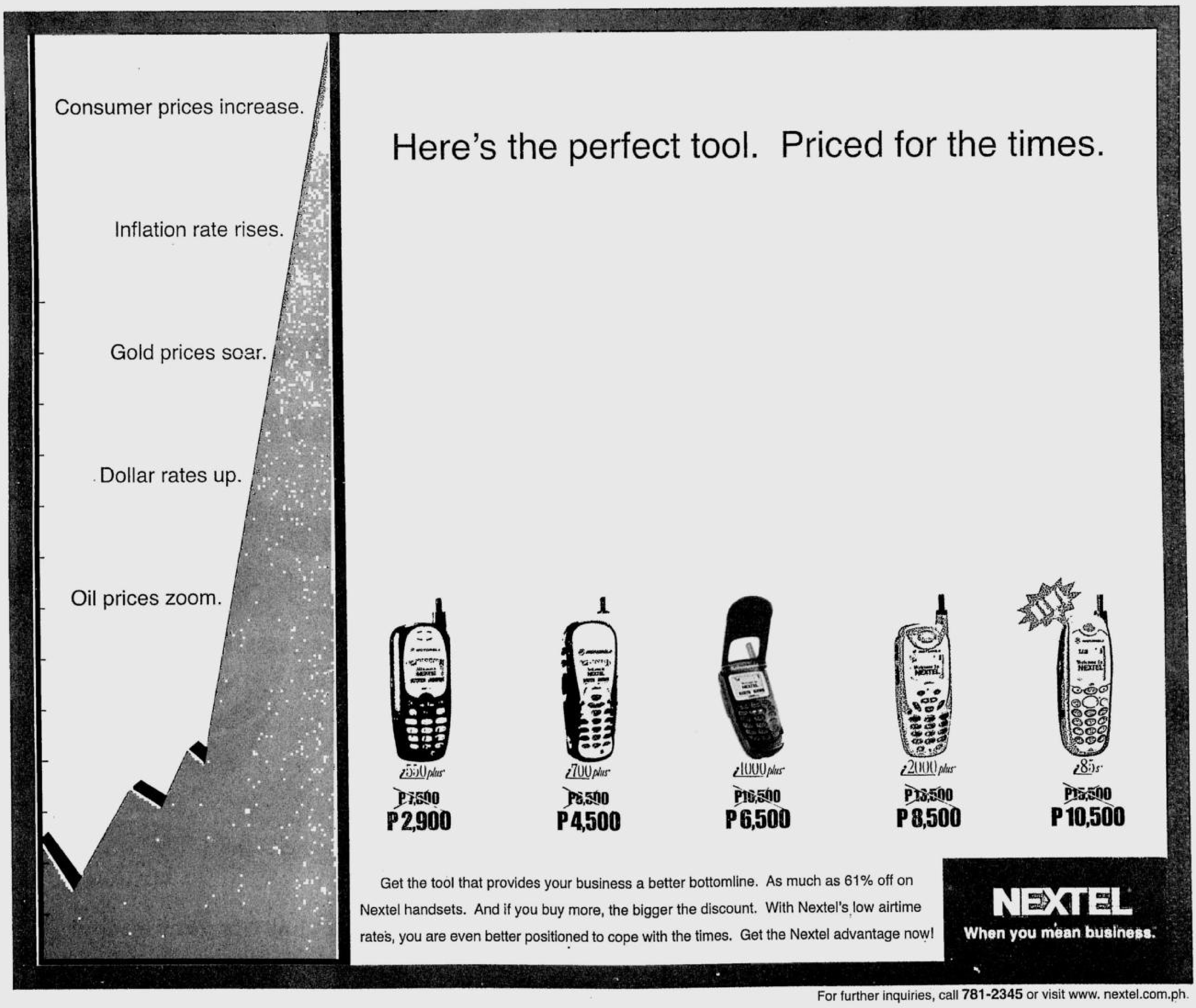
Fedex officials, however, refused to comment on whether the slackening of the US economy has already made a dent on Fedex operations.

Yim said the recent move by Fedex's rival, United Parcel Service, to establish a new transport hub in Clark underscored the region's growth potential as well as the Philippines strategic location.

Yim said: "We see UPS' move as a compliment because we have decided to set up operations in Subic as early as six years ago." From an initial two aircraft, Fedex's AsiaOne hub currently has 10 wide-bodied jets and it has a contract to operate at the former American naval base up to 2007."

The SBMA said Fedex had sent feelers to extend its contract up to 2013.

AsiaOne serves as the operating base of the courier's operations in the region especially for its next business day deliveries in key cities in Asia, Europe and US.



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BUSINESS *Monday*

MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

Gov't gears for battle to push economic laws

Failure to get 13 seats in the Senate may create rough waters for government reforms

ROXAS: Election results will affect speed and form with which structural reforms and legislation can be addressed.

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

WITH the People Power Coalition failing to live up to its 13-0 hype, the Macapagal administration is bracing for a turbulent season in lobbying for economic reforms in Congress.

Based on the latest tally of the National Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel) quick count as of Friday, the PPC bets occupied only seven of the top 13 candidates. It remains to be seen whether the administration-backed candidates will gain or lose more slots as the ballots are counted.

Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II says: "Clearly, the election results particularly in the Senate will affect the speed and the form with which the structural reforms and legislation can be addressed."

Among the bills the Macapagal administration will push in the incoming Congress is the rationalization of incentives and further reforms in the banking sector.

Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz says the standings of the senatorial candidates remain "volatile" considering that less than half of the ballots have been tabulated.

Luz adds that all slots from the No. 3 spot have been changing constantly and will remain in flux until the bulk of the votes have come in.

Namfrel is expected to wrap up its quick count by next week but the winners are likely to be announced in two weeks time or until the Commission on Elections has finished its canvassing.

Pundits say the government needs to get at least eight of the 13 slots up for grabs to have a firm grip on the 24-member Senate. Of the 11 incumbent senators whose terms will expire on 2004, the government is counting on six as their supporters—Senate President Aquilino Pimentel, Renato Cayetano, Loren Legarda, Robert Barbers, Ramon Revilla and Rodolfo Biazon.

The remaining five senators—Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, Teresa Aquino-Oreta, Robert Jaworski Sr., John Osmeña and Blas Ople—are perceived to be loyal to the deposed President Joseph Estrada having voted against the opening of the second envelope in the impeachment trial that would have revealed Estrada's questionable bank accounts.

Still, Roxas, a former congressman from Capiz, says he remains optimistic that the Senate will remain true to form when all the winners have been known.

"Historically, the Senate has been able to rise beyond partisan biases and has expressed willingness to come together in legislating these reforms," he says.

This means that the government can still woo opposition senators just to support the government's priority bills.

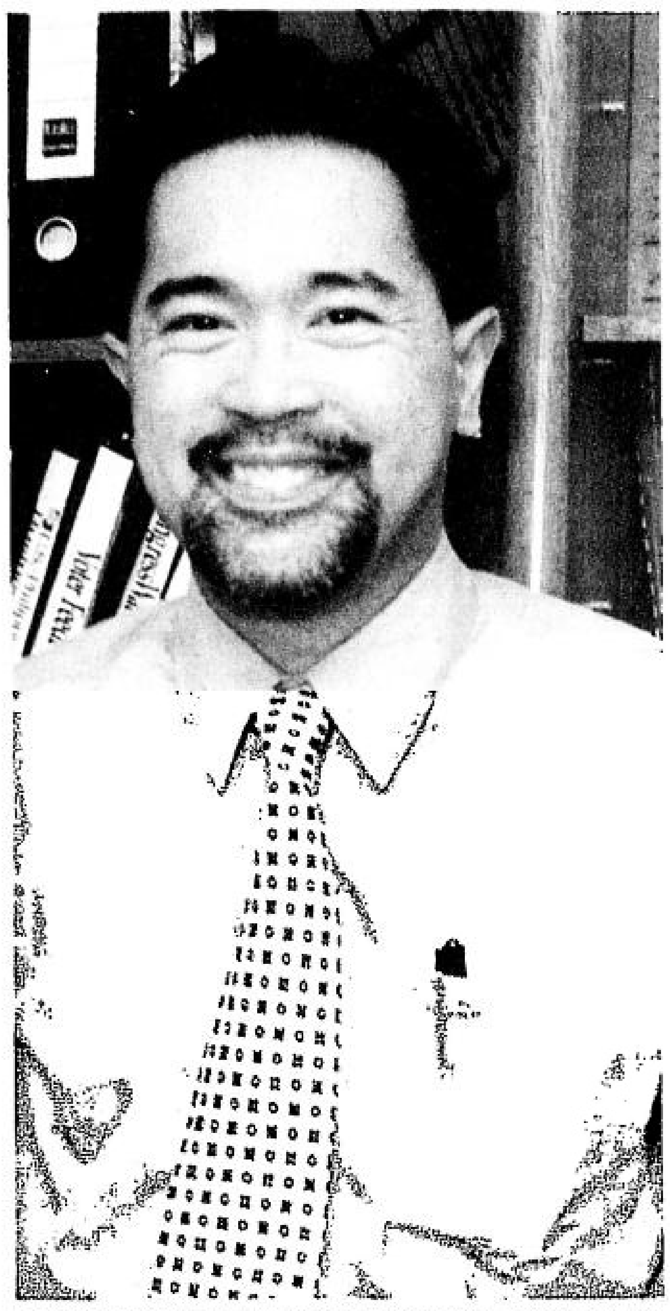
Roxas also notes that some of the bills in the Macapagal administration's legislative agenda are similar to those endorsed by previous administrations since 1986.

Luz says he does not think the outcome of the Senate elections will have a big effect on the government's ability to push its reforms in Congress. While it can take more time and effort on the part of the government to get its economic reforms enacted, he is optimistic that the legislators would eventually vote on these bills because of their obvious benefits to the economy.

But an immediate concern of Roxas is the "largely negative reports" by foreign media on the recent elections. He says these reports have a dampening effect on investors' interest in the country.

Roxas chides foreign journalists for exaggerating their reports by painting the elections as "exclusively chaotic" and citing the death toll from poll-related violence.

"They were using really bad words. We have a relatively peaceful and successful elections compared to our Asean neighbors. They forgot to point out the good points such as the huge turnout (85 percent of voters cast their ballots)," Roxas says.


LUZ: Election results will not have big effect on the government's ability to push its reforms in Congress.

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150 CEOs to meet on global competitiveness

A TOP-LEVEL conference on "Repositioning for Global Competitiveness" sponsored by Joaquin Cunanan & Co., a member firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers, together with Six Sigma Consulting, will be attended by over 150 company presidents and chief executive officers on May 22 at The Peninsula Manila Hotel.

"Coming at the heels of the elections and recent political turbulence, the conference seek, to generate fresh optimism and new ideas and approaches to enable Philippine business to compete more effectively in a radically changed global environment," said Corazon de la Paz, chairman and senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co.

The lineup of speakers is composed of Ayala Corp. president and CEO Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, who will deliver the keynote address; Lapanday Holdings Corp. chairman Luis P. Lorenzo Jr., on strategies for global competitiveness in agribusiness; Software Ventures International president Gil V. Guanio, in information technology; Smart Communications Inc. president and CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno, in telecommunications industry; and Nokia Asia Pacific senior vice president, Kari Ahola, on the Nokia experience in global competitiveness.

Open forum moderators will be Senen Bacani of Six Sigma Consulting and Jerry Isla, vice chairman and deputy senior partner of Joaquin Cunanan & Co. Six Sigma Consulting Managing consultant and CEO Franco G. del Rosario will give the closing remarks.

The event is the first major private sector conference to tackle strategies that will help bring the economy back on its feet after the Edsa II uprising that installed President Macapagal-Arroyo and the failed attempt to capture Malacañang on May 1.

"The point of the conference is that we have to get our act together," said de la Paz "We will share insights with the top business executives who have succeeded not because they always had the right strategies but because they have always been willing to listen and learn to improve their strategies."

"This is our way of saying that Philippine business has had a few setbacks but we're rolling with the punches and will certainly stay in the ring, swinging with all we've got," Del Rosario of Six Sigma Consulting said.

Summaries of the discussions will be sent to other business executives all over the country.

The future of Metro Manila's transport systems

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Cezar T. Quiambao

BY 2020, Metro Manila's urban transport systems will have to be varied to provide alternatives for the mega-city's estimated 20 million residents.

As early as now, the government and the private sector must work together to build the needed infrastructure. With a present population of 10 million, Metro Manila traffic taxes motorists' patience. In 20 years or less, it will be unbearable if provisions are not made now. Population growth is galloping. Moreover, the slow rural development translates to sustained urban migration. The new urbanites will need shelter, food, water, jobs and transportation.

The Metro Manila Urban Transport Integration Study (MMUTIS), a government-commissioned study that was conducted with Japan International Cooperation Agency's (Jica) technical assistance, predicted that the number of motor vehicles in Metro Manila will hit 2.1 million by 2015.

Albeit a conservative projection, this more than doubles the current number. This situation is aggravated by the undisciplined Filipino drivers, substandard roadway that melts in the rain, pedestrians and clogged sewerage system which is the major cause of flooding.

To make matters worse, the metropolis' road network is hardly expanding. By 2015, the government will have to invest P350 billion to forestall this Gordian knot of a gridlock. The best long-term solution is to plan ahead and seriously consider urban redesigning, rail-based mass transport system, expanded road networks and intelligent highways, ferry system and telecommuting.

Urban redesigning

Metro Manila, in the minds of urban planners is, undoubtedly, daunting. We can lay the systemic blame on the city's history. Architect Felino Palafox calls it the two wrongs.

The first "wrong" is the Spanish town plaza design with a church and municipal hall at the town center, ringed by the homes of the elite, and the poor consigned to the outskirts of the city. The modern version of this concept is found in Metro Manila's two financial centers, Makati and Ortigas. On one hand, employees end up commuting two or three hours a day to get to work. On the other hand, those who drive cars spend 1,000 hours a year in traffic.

The second "wrong" is Manila's copycat adoption of post-war US city designs, which are based on the car. This introduced and reinforced the separation of living and working environments. Los Angeles is the premiere example of a car-based city design that is alienating and inefficient.

Designed by General Motors, LA is a community that requires every resident to own a car. It became the blueprint of development for the world's cities, including Manila's. LA's efficient public transport systems were dismantled, as was Manila's.

Since the mid-90s, the policies of the Philippine Government have become more attuned. New city plans and zoning rules now allow for higher densities and more mixed-use to make commuting easier. The government has to introduce innovations such as planning and building walkable and bikable cities to reduce pollution and to include mass transportation systems

Rail-based mass transport system

An efficient mass transport system that provides a fast, pollution-free, comfortable and affordable alternative to commuters and to private car owners is important in a city like Metro Manila with a population of over 10 million.

The present rail system still does not have a sufficient coverage and reach within the metropolis. A comprehensive inter-urban rail strategy for Metro Manila should be established to have more railway systems encircling and traversing Metro Manila and connecting it to hubs in Central, Northern and Southern Luzon.

With the present traffic situation in Metro Manila, a monorail system that can carry five million people per day using four cars at three-minute intervals built above the circumferential roads should be considered by the government.

Expanded road networks

In Metro Manila, road projects have mainly focused on 6 Circumferential Roads (C-1 to C-6) and 10 Radial Roads (R-1 to R-10). However, as a result of rapid economic and population growth, these roads have failed to keep up with the increase rate of vehicles, which according to statistics (Land Transportation Office), is about 5 percent per annum.

Except in certain portions of the expressways, Metro Manila still suffers from chronic traffic congestion with the average car speed of only 1825 km per hour. A good example of expanding the road network is the government's effort to develop grade-separated structures at all the intersections on Edsa and C-5 with radial roads.

With these, traffic jams are expected to be relieved and residential circumstances will be improved.

In the not-so-distant future, intelligent highways that are safer, faster, more environmental-friendly and less costly to maintain can be developed by employing information technology.

Under an Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) program, real-time traffic information on the Internet can be realized in due time. Electronic toll collection and electronic traffic management systems now speed up the commute of people abroad.

A single smart card can also be developed for roads, parking lots and mass transit. The electronic toll collection (ETC) system, like the e-Pass that was recently introduced in the South Luzon Expressway and the Skyway System, is popular in the United States and many parts of Europe and Asia because it saves a lot of money and time.

Electronic systems are able to process 1,200 cars per lane in one hour, compared to 500 to 600 vehicles with manual processing.

Ferry system

Manila's arterial Pasig River can also be used to ease Manila's gridlock. The river can link the cultural, business and residential areas of the city by ferry over Manila's waterfront. The 27-kilometer long river passes through nine towns and cities of Metro Manila.

By strategically positioning ferry stops all along the river, citizens would have the option to travel across towns and cities in the metropolis comfortably and efficiently. The mode of transport may take several forms or a combination of modes, such as existing river ferries and paddle wheel waterbuses and *bancas*, an ultra-light rail system running on lateral rains on the riverbank edge.

The paddle-wheel ferries would have the capacity to carry 20,000 people per hour on a double-decker two-tier system. The ultra-light rail system could be made up of lightweight cabs pulled by an internal cable system (like in San Francisco) or a linear electric motor, either way the system is pollution-free.

Telecommuting

To help ease traffic congestion, companies can maximize the potential of information technology by encouraging their employees to work from their homes. IBM Philippines has a telecommuting program in effect already. Home computers linked to offices can positively affect urban design, transport systems strategies and work patterns.

Telecommuting is defined as the use of telecommunications technology as substitute for the daily physical commute. One of the major reasons for the rising interest in telecommuting in California is the reported increase in productivity in companies where telecommuting is adopted.

Another incentive for companies and local governments is the reduction of costs. In 1994, LA realized an $8,000 saving per telecommuter per year on costs ranging from energy consumption to worker's compensation claims. The overall demand for workspace also declined by 30 percent.

Part of these savings resulted from the employees' use of their own computer equipment at home to work on their office assignments. Correspondingly, telecommuters themselves save on gasoline and other personal expenses like food, wardrobe and child care. The success of telecommuting in LA can be replicated here in Manila.

Conclusion

For most part of the century, the Philippine transport system was built with concrete and steel. As we enter the 21st century, we now accept that the future of mass transport systems will exist in the real and virtual spaces. The information superhighway is now so important as the concrete superhighway.

The five alternatives to the future mass transport systems only serve to reinforce this point. To realize efficient transport systems in the Philippines, creativity, innovation, foresight, an open mind, and partnerships are essentials for the public and the private sectors.

A determined political will of the government is also required, as well as the passion and determination for excellence from everyone involved. Only this way can the commuting public's interest be served effectively.

(This article reflects the personal views of the author who is a member of the Management Association of the Philippines and president and chief executive officer of Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. The MAP Secretariat and the author may be reached via mapsec@globe.com.ph)

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For this president, work stops when he gets home

'**THE ADVANTAGE** of being Filipinos is that we can easily adjust ourselves to the local culture and environment,' says Perry Mogar, new president of Sara Lee Direct Selling in Asia.

AS multinational corporations in Asia follow the trend toward regionalization, more and more Filipinos are being chosen to head their companies' regional headquarters.

One of these new dynamic leaders is Perry Mogar, the recently appointed president of Sara Lee Direct Selling in Asia.

Having managed the local operations of House of Sara Lee (HoSL) for two and a half years, Mogar now joins the ranks of regional executives, proudly Filipino, who are leading the initiatives of global companies within the region.

Mogar attributes this partly to his policy of empowering people and motivating them to do well. He says this allows him to adopt a more relaxed management style.

"I am not a workaholic. When I get out of the office, that's it. I have a very relaxed management style," he stresses. This means no phone calls to or from his people when he is at home, especially on Saturdays and Sundays.

As a regional head, he gets to visit each country under his responsibility for one or two days a month, communicating the best ideas and practices in each operation, reviewing sales development, asset management and people development.

"But the local general manager is the one who still has to make the decision," he adds.

Part of his task now is to open new opportunities within the region, for example, in Vietnam, Taiwan or India, where market potential remains largely untapped.

"I have enough challenges in the next two or three years," he says. "My main objective right now is to do this job well, and spread to other areas the earning opportunities from Sara Lee Direct Selling."

Mogar took on the regional management position after managing the local operations for two and a half years.

His philosophy of empowering people helped propel Perry to his current top positions. This Economics degree holder from Ateneo de Manila University, however, didn't think he would end up in management.

He first went to the Ateneo College of Law and stayed there for 3-1/2 years. But once started on a series of mid level positions in other multinational corporations, he finally found himself in marketing, general management, direct selling, and finally head of Asian Operations.

"The advantage of being Filipino is that we can easily adjust ourselves to the local culture and environment," Mogar explains.

"For example, in Indonesia, the managers and leaders of the big conglomerates there are Filipinos, but they have been able to work very well with the local management and local employees. Our kind of education and our exposure to different ides and cultures have made us more tolerant and respectful of other people. We also pick up the language very quickly. You can assign a Filipino in Indonesia, or any Asian country, and in three months' time he can confidently go around," he adds.

MANAGEMENT STYLES

Mogar knows how to speak Bahasa Indonesia, and plans to also pick up the language in Thailand and Malaysia, which are under the Asian umbrella organization now headquartered in the Philippines.

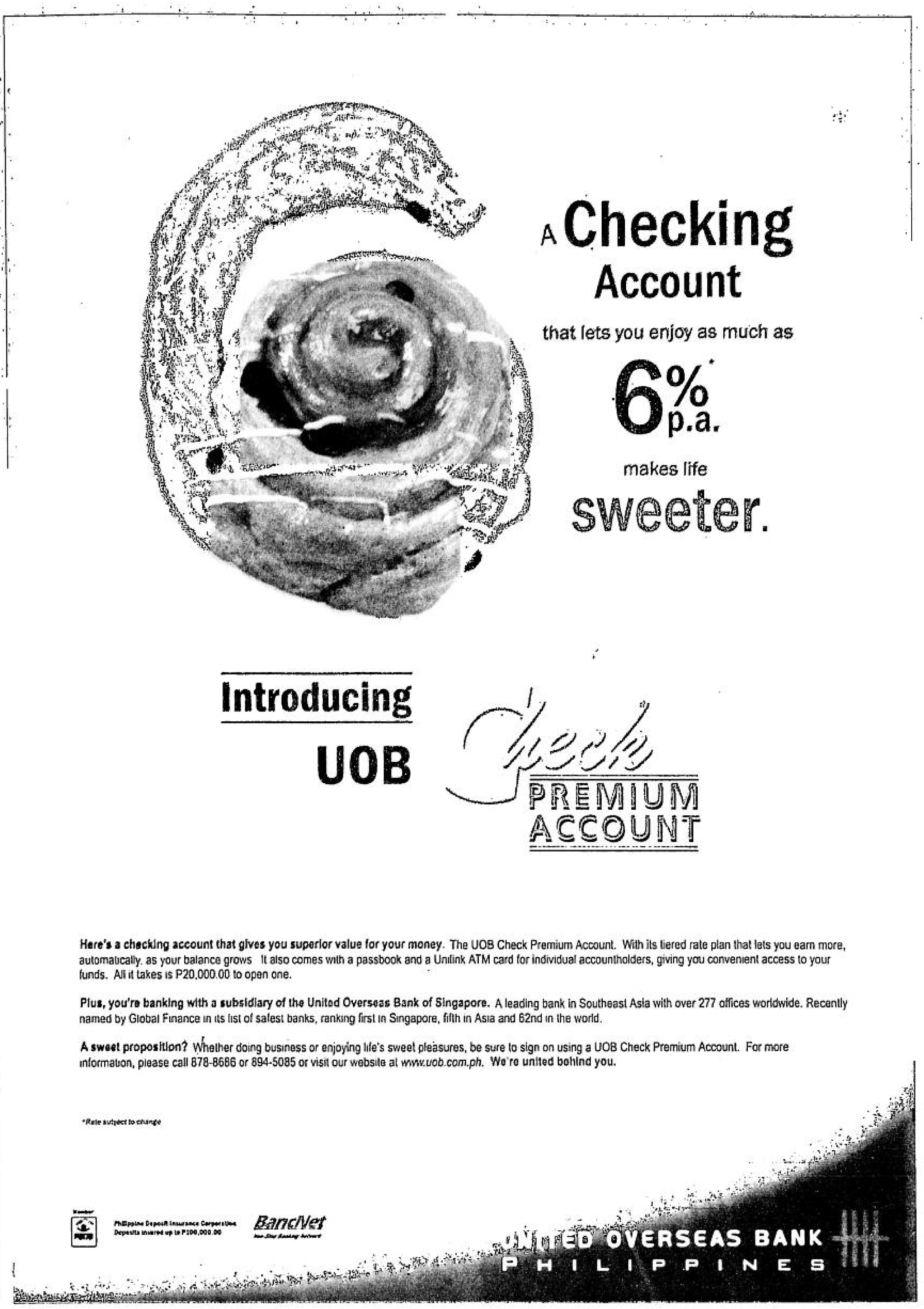
This decision to gather all Asian operations under one region was made just last December.

Perry explains that one of the benefits of going regional is that "we are now in a better position to seize the opportunities that exist within the region, and transfer new products and best practices very quickly. We need not go through different channels anymore like Australia, London, or other countries, like what we did in the past."

Mogar says House of Sara Lee is unfazed by the economic situation.

"We continue to be optimistic about the future. In fact, we are opening 20 more Sara Lee branches nationwide this year. The direct selling industry is more resilient against economic downturns than others. Negative economic situation can even build up direct selling, as people start to look for alternative sources of income."

HoSL posted a 40-percent growth in the last two years, Mogar expects to sustain this growth via the addition of new branches and offering exciting new products.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UNITED OVERSEAS BANK PHILIPPINES

Taste for top tea brings new life

NKANDLA, South Africa—Nelly Nxumalo, who lives in one of the poorest communities of South Africa, has a taste for one of the most exclusive teas in the world—and it has changed her life.

She liked the taste so much she has begun growing it in a project that is dragging her community from deep poverty.

The Ntingwe Tea Estate produces some of the best tea in the world and has brought 67-year-old Nxumalo a vital job as well as investment to the rugged hills near Nkandla deep in KwaZulu- Natal province where unemployment tops 70 percent.

Ntingwe, which will produce 380 tons of processed tea this year for markets mainly in Britain and Japan, has a program to encourage people living near the plantation to grow the hardy crop and generate crucial income for their families.

The estate has a workforce of 600 people, which is expected to double by 2015, and their wages are pumping an estimated two million rand ($247,500) a year into hard-to-reach mud and thatch homes dotting steep valleys around the plantation.

Ntingwe's outgrower program is seen adding

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Hackers: New economy's heels, not heroes

By Raul C. Dancel

VIVIENNE Tan, daughter of taipan Lucio Tan, thought it would just be another day at the office. She was in for a surprise. Her instincts told her something was wrong as she went through the motions of keying in her password and logging on to the server.

Programs weren't launching properly, and error messages that did not make sense kept popping all over her computer screen. Then it hit her. Someone was hacking into the company using her passwords. Moments later, a more dreadful thought: Someone she trusted was stealing from her. They were not stealing money straight out of a vault or jewelry or office equipment. They were stealing copyrighted materials—intellectual property rights. To most people, this wouldn't be a big deal. For Tan, however, it was the start of a harrowing experience.

Exclusive school

Tan runs Thames International Business School, Philippines, a Singapore-based school that owes much of its existence to corporate secrecy.

Thames, established two years ago in the country, allows students here to get a foreign degree without leaving for universities abroad during their first two years in college.

The school uses a special curriculum system validated by the University of Cambridge, which means the courses can be credited in 14 universities affiliated with University of Cambridge (but not Cambridge itself) in the US, UK and Australia such as Oxford Brookes University, Coventry University, Middlesex University and Murdoch University.

This special curriculum was one of the things stolen from Thames.

It's the content

Thames director Jaime Noel Santos admits it's difficult to place an exact value on what the school lost.

"In the knowledge economy, it's the content that drives the value. It's not about buildings, chairs and tables. It's about content," he says.

Tan adds: "It's just like they get into your software company and steal your codes. That information is still with you, but it no longer has any value because it has already been stolen."

In Thames' case, some of its own employees copied trade secrets built up over 10 years of research and development. These go beyond lesson plans, subject lists and instructional materials.

"When you talk about intellectual capital, different financial analysts will put different values to it. I would rather say we lost a few million dollars," says Santos.

He points out that Thames International, Thames' parent firm, was set up in 1987. "That's more than 10 years of research and development. That's something that is not done in the Philippines. It's the same thing that is used in Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. Overnight, somebody has access to it and steals it. Once you have accessed it, you can sell it anywhere because it not only has value in the Philippines; it actually has more value outside the Philippines."

Landmark case

Thames has asked the National Bureau of Investigation and some British forensics experts to help it investigate the theft.

Initial investigations done by a Microsoft-accredited third-party showed that certain employees of Thames who had access to the school's server were able to skim training modules and other confidential and copyrighted materials. When confronted, the suspects refused to issue any statement and had never reported for work since they were interrogated.

A further investigation showed that there was a conspiracy that involved former employees of Thames and people outside the school.

"I don't think it would have been easy just for one person to do all these things. It would have been easier had there been more people involved because they would have a wider access," says Tan.

Santos said these people were now working for a company that, he suspected, could be profiting from the materials stolen from Thames.

Problems

THAMES
Int
ational
siness School

LUCIO Tan's daughter, Vivienne, tests the country's e-commerce law. Speaking is Jaime Noel Santos.

As soon as the NBI finds sufficient evidence of a crime, then the case goes to court. If it does, it will be the first to be tried under the newly enacted e-commerce law.

The problem with a pioneering case, however, is that no one is sure how to go about it.

Unlike the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has thrown huge resources at its disposal into combating crimes committed over the Internet, the NBI has barely begun to get itself acquainted with the personal computer and cyberspace.

The "I love you" virus was a wake-up call. Onel de Guzman, the 23-year-old author of what many consider as the most destructive computer virus ever created, has gotten away scot-free simply because the NBI didn't know what to charge him with. De Guzman has admitted to creating the virus, but insists it was unleashed by accident during a "cyberwar" between two rival hackers' groups. That mistake cost about $10 billion in damages worldwide and made De Guzman a revered icon in Philippine hackerdom.

Santos, however, is confident things are moving in the right direction.

"I know that (the NBI) has been undergoing training since the I love you virus. That one caught everyone unaware and flat-footed. Let's give them a chance. I think experience and training have elevated their level of competence. It's not only the NBI but also our local judicial systems," he says.

Thames' case, Santos hopes, will test how well the government's training so far will pay off.

Messages

Santos says Thames decided to come out in the open instead of sweeping everything under the rug, as most other companies do for fear of damaging their reputation, to send certain messages to the public.

"The first message is that we want to protect our intellectual property. We're really serious in protecting it because of its value. The second motivation is that we really want to show the world that this country condemns hacking and online piracy. We're hoping that with this case, this government can show that the Philippines is a dangerous place for hackers. The third motivation is that the new generation of business people are entrepreneurs. We advocate transparency and fair business practices. We condemn unethical business practices like hacking and piracy," he says.

Tan adds: "I think it's very important for people to know that we should not be glorifying hackers. They're not heroes, and they should not be glorified to the point that people find them as someone they can look up to. You also have to remember that the persons who did the antidote for the I love you virus are also Filipinos. The thing is, nobody knows it. Nobody is glorifying them and I think they're the ones who are supposed to be heroes, and they're not even somewhere in the newspapers."

Hackers' paradise

The Philippines is being described as a "hackers' paradise" because of the government's seeming helplessness to crack down on rogue computer programmers who steal passwords, commit credit card fraud, unleash destructive computer programs, and reproduce CDs and other copyrighted materials. Not much is known as to the impact that hacking and online piracy have on the domestic economy mainly because companies, particularly those dealing in banking and finance, prefer to keep quiet about it. Overall, however, PricewaterhouseCoopers estimate that hackers and virus authors will cost the world economy over $1.6 trillion this year alone.

The unregulated activities of hackers and computer pirates here have been one of the reasons cited for the United States' decision to again place the Philippines on its priority watch list of intellectual property rights violators. The Philippines had already graduated to the United States' normal watch list before a powerful lobby group convinced the US trade representative that the country was again becoming a hotbed of hackers and computer pirates.

The Department of Trade and Industry has already sent a complaint to Washington, but public perception has been stacked up high against the Philippines.

Not about the money

Tan emphasizes that it's not about the money. It's not something that bothers her. She is, after all, an heir of beer and tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, one of the country's richest men. What rails her more is the trust that has been breached. It pains her to know that this is a case of pure, unadulterated greed.

"We trusted everybody in the company. Of course, we feel very betrayed. It's like you trusted someone, and someone betrayed you, someone cheated on you, and that is how I feel. I always look at people as an asset to the company, and I never treated them as someone who are employees *lang*. I don't look at them like that. I always look at them, at my whole company, as a team. In everything that we do, it's always a team effort."

She says the experience has made her pause to reflect on the things that she may have done wrongly.

"When something like that happens, you always wonder why. Where did you fall short on? Did you feel short on something? When I asked myself several times, when that thing happened, I couldn't even answer myself. Okay *lang* if you really did something to them, or fell short in a lot of things, not give them a lot of things, something like that. I don't think there was anything from the management side. It's just because the temptation from outside, having that kind of dream, to have more, the greediness, which has come in, these seep into your head. It's very different. There has to be control inside. It has to be very, very strong."

Ranks of wealthy expand in most parts of world except Asia, Africa

NEW YORK—The rich got richer in most parts of the world last year, except for Asia and Africa.

A study released Monday found that there were nearly 7.2 million people around the globe in 2000 who had at least $1 million in investable assets, an increase of 180,000 from 1999.

Their total wealth was estimated at $27 trillion, up 6 percent from $25.5 trillion the previous year.

The growth in both the number of wealthy and their holdings would have been even greater had stock markets around the world not fallen substantially after the first quarter, the study said.

In 1999, when the stock market rose strongly, the assets of the world's wealthiest individuals grew 18 percent.

The only two regions that didn't join in the wealth-building boom last year were Africa, where commodity prices have been depressed, and Asia, where performance was dampened by weak economic growth in Japan, the report said.

The annual study, the fifth in a series, was prepared by the Merrill Lynch & Co. brokerage and Cap Gemini Ernst & Young consultants.

At 7.2 million, the world's wealthiest people represent just a tiny fraction of the world's 6.1 billion population. But their ranks are monitored closely by Merrill Lynch and other companies that provide investment and private banking services, such as J.P. Morgan Chase and Citigroup, because they are potentially profitable clients.

The Merrill Lynch-Cap Gemini survey looks at the wealth of people it calls "high net worth individuals," who have cash, stocks and other assets worth at least $1 million. Most are beyond what people think of as "millionaires" since the wealth figure doesn't include their real estate holdings and other nonliquid assets.

According to the latest study, the strongest growth in wealth was in the oil-rich Middle East, where the holdings of some 220,000 high net worth individuals rose 18 percent to $1.3 trillion.

The biggest increase in the number of very wealthy people came in Europe, where the total rose 6 percent to 2.3 million. Their combined holdings rose 7.5 percent to $7.2 trillion, the study showed.

The study gave these figures for other regions:

- **North America, including the United States and Canada.** The number of high net worth individuals rose 2.4 percent to 2.54 million, and their wealth increased 9 percent to $8.8 trillion.
- **Latin America, including Mexico.** The number of wealthy individuals was unchanged at 190,000, but their holdings increased 6.5 percent to $3.3 trillion.
- **Asia.** The number of wealthy people fell about 0.6 percent to 1.7 million, and their assets dropped 9 percent to $4.9 trillion.
- **Africa.** The number of high net worth individuals was unchanged at 40,000, and their wealth was unchanged at about $500 billion.

Some 80,000 people made it into the ranks of the wealthiest with the stock market boom in the first quarter of 2000, but fell below the $1 million threshold as the markets declined, the report said.

"In the buoyant first three months of 2000, strong growth in the creation of high net worth individuals continued, with an additional 260,000 millionaires generated by the end of March 2000," Keith Stock, global head of financial services at Cap Gemini said in a statement accompanying the report. "But as the markets turned, the number of new millionaires fell...(and) there were 180,000 new high net worth individuals remaining at the end of December."

The survey projected that the holdings of the world's wealthiest individuals would grow 8 percent a year for the next five years to a total of $39.7 trillion in 2005.

The study also tracked the wealth of a group referred to as "ultra high net worth individuals," each of whom has at least $30 million in assets that can be invested. Their number rose 3 percent last year to a total of 57,000 people, and their holdings increased 6 percent to $8.37 trillion, the report said. ***AP***

Why more politicians and less CEOs join the government

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

THE BELEAGUERED business sector suffering from an acute lack of investor confidence in the country fervently wishes that there would be more business personalities who will land elective positions.

They feel that senators, congressmen or even local officials who have at least a working knowledge of business and economics will be able to better appreciate economic laws and the concerns of businessmen.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., however, says that entering politics is a daunting task for businessmen especially for CEOs or top-rank officials who are used to making decisions fast and expecting their decisions to be implemented right away.

"They have to understand that it's not easy. There are many decision points and you have to discuss everything with other people. We have to really deal with bureaucratic red tape and getting clearance from so many agencies and local government units," Magsaysay says.

He says difficulty adjusting to working for the executive or legislative department turned off many businessmen from joining government. Many of them leaving embittered and burned by the experience.

He says it was easier for him to adjust to political life since he grew up with politics, his father and namesake being the country's most loved president despite his short stay in office.

MAGSAYSAY

"Sometimes businessmen are good in what they do and they are really very knowledgeable about their work. But they should also understand that if they don't get the support that they need from other politicians, then they will just be mere decorations," Magsaysay explains.

He, however, admits that he still had to go through his own period of adjustment since he was busy working for his own cable company and spearheading the development of the cable industry.

He was immersed in his business when he was suddenly picked to be the running mate of Miriam Defensor-Santiago during her unsuccessful presidential bid in 1992.

It was all politics from then on, becoming senator in 1998 and now likely to get a second term.

"Because I was the CEO, if I find that there is a good business plan and I have the resources, I can immediately do it with the support of the board of directors. It is not as easy in politics because it is also one way of protecting government resources," Magsaysay says.

He, however, says that it would be ideal for more business personalities to enter politics or hold government positions, since they bring with them values of being results oriented in the way they accomplish government objectives.

"In politics, you spend so much time explaining. I would say one-third of the time you spend conducting public hearings, another one-third to explain why you are proposing measures and the rest spent on trying to convince colleagues to support your position," he says.

The need for people knowledgeable in economics is becoming even more crucial these days as we are in a globalized economy. If we do not implement laws or restructure our government structures to favor investments, we will lose even more to other emerging economies like ours.

"I remember before that I did not get too much support when I was pushing for the e-commerce law because of the lack of understanding of its implications. But when the business sector supported it and other people in government supported it, it was certified urgent and was passed," Magsaysay says.

With a second term as senator almost under his belt, Magsaysay says he will continue to push for other measures to help foster the growth of small and medium enterprises such as providing collateral-free access to capital.

"It is not a guarantee to make the SMEs succeed but at least they will have access to capital," Magsaysay says.

THE MGC New Life Christian Academy and the Bases Conversion Development Authority recently signed a memorandum of agreement that will pave the way for the Makati Gospel Center to move into the Bonifacio Global City. BCDA Chair Rogelio L. Singson (2nd from right) receives a check representing advance lease payment equivalent to five years lease rental from MGC chair and Cityland president Stephen Rocas (3rd from left).

Biggest fight in video game history kicks off this week

LOS ANGELES—Microsoft, Nintendo and Sony are about to do battle for America's living rooms with the introduction of the next generation of video game consoles.

Microsoft's Xbox and Nintendo's GameCube are expected to debut later this year and will be competing against Sony's PlayStation 2 during the holiday sales season.

All three products will be promoted this week at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, the world's largest video game trade show.

"So far, things have never really stacked up like this," said Shawn Rider, console editor at GamesFirst, an online newsletter. "Having the Xbox and the GameCube to compete with PlayStation 2—which, in many ways is a new system, especially given the difficulty people have had in getting it—is creating a flurry of competition we haven't seen before."

The highly anticipated console war will bring the next generation of entertainment in living rooms, offering varying combinations of Internet access, MP3 downloads, DVD-playing capability and multiplayer games with richer graphics and faster processing.

Neither Microsoft nor Nintendo have said what their boxes will cost. The PlayStation 2 costs $299.

Who will win the war is far from clear. But newcomer Microsoft is likely to get the most attention. Analysts say the software giant is spending $500 million to market its new system, more than it spent promoting Windows 95.

At the E3 show, Microsoft will highlight Xbox's built-in hard disk, which it says enables better graphics and more sophisticated games.

The company will also hype games including "Halo," a sci-fi soldier combat game; "Shrek," based on the soon-to-be-released animated movie of the same name; and the third installment of "Odd World," a quirky strategy/combat game featuring a cast of freakishly cute characters in a strange land.

The company plans to announce solid release dates during the conference and begin promoting Xbox's online connectivity. The unit will come with hardware for online access, but executives have said full online service for Xbox owners won't arrive until next year.

BIGGEST/ C7

Oil firm changes corporate name

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission recently approved the change in the corporate name of Total Petroleum Philippines Corp. (TPC) to TotalFinaElf Philippines Corp. (TPC).

The change is a result of the merger of its parent corporations, TotalFina and Elf Aquitaine, now known as TotalFinaElf, one of the world's five biggest oil and gas companies.

TPC president and managing director Jeff Attwood said that the new name was in line with the overall strategy of the TotalFinaElf Group.

With the SEC's approval, all correspondence and transactions of TPC will bear the new corporate identity. The company, however, can be reached at the same address in Makati City.

Established in the Philippines in 1997, TPC now has a total of 29 service stations in the country with three more nearing completion.

Taste ...

(From page C3)

an extra 200 hectares (500 acres) of tea by 2015 when the estate will have reached its planned planting of 585 hectares (1,440 acres) and be producing 1,800 tons of tea, said Ryle Perera, the estate's general manager.

The program started late last year with five farmers each planting 0.125 of a hectare — about the size of a tennis court — to 1,000 tea plants, building up over a number of years to a hectare or more.

This year, the estate has received 55 applications to join the program, Perera said.

Although Nxumalo's tea plants are small and will take another two years of careful nurturing before she can begin harvesting, she is delighted to have been chosen for the scheme.

Tip #14. Keyboard Shortcuts For Highlighting Text

Ctrl + Shift + Home Select all text from cursor location to top of document
Ctrl + Shift + End Select all text from cursor location to end of document
From **Click** to **Shift + Click** Select from this cursor location to the next
Shift + Arrow L/R Select one letter at a time
Shift + Arrow U/D Select one line at a time
Ctrl + Shift + Arrow L/R Select one word at a time
Ctrl + Shift + Arrow U/D Select one paragraph at a time

To use mouse with wheel scroller:
Left Click & Hold + Wheel

To **cancel the selection** prior to executing any other command, hit **any arrow key.**

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FROM MAIN STREET TO SUPERCENTERS

Stores change, shopping remains the same

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE TANTOCOS of Rustan's starts the trend with Shopwise in Alabang.

MALL kingpin Henry Sy catches up with Super SM along Sucat.

LANCE Gokongwei with father John go for the Big R in Fairview.

A TENANT of SM North Edsa recalls that the mall opened at the height of one of the coups launched by reelectionist Sen. Gregorio Honasan during the presidency of the Aquino administration.

Aquino withstood the coup attempts and the mall started a trend that changed the face of retailing in the '80s.

The mall concept is simply based on putting together shopping, leisure, entertainment and services under one roof.

Shopping was not always as convenient.

In the olden time in the US for example, shops were only found along the Main Street. The goods were limited and they were displayed on the shelves with a salesclerk at hand to show the buyer what he wanted.

This system eventually disappeared as store owners discovered it is more efficient to put the products on shelves where the customers can hold them and compare them with another product.

Main Street shopping evolved into Mom and Pop shops which were small and highly specialized in their products or services.

This eventually evolved into department stores where a greater variety of goods were sold. Department stores gave birth to malls. If you are observant you will notice that all malls have what they call their anchor stores—SM malls are always anchored at SM Department Stores; Robinson's malls are anchored at Robinson's department stores.

SM kingpin Henry Sy continued to build several malls and continues to do so. He not only built in the metropolis but in the provinces as well. John Gokongwei of the Robinson's fame tries to follow close although he still has a long way to go before he catches up.

The '90s ushered in a new concept in shopping—warehouse clubs in which membership shopping in a no-frills environment was introduced. The Uniwide Warehouse Club was the proponent of this concept and enjoyed immense success with crowds getting attracted to untiled floors and good stacked in warehouse type racks.

Few joined the warehouse club bandwagon and although Uniwide still operates today, bad investments and reported mismanagement curtailed much of the group's potentials.

The turn of the century introduced another concept in Philippine retailing—supercenters or hypermarts.

A supercenter or hypermart combines a supermarket with a full-line discount store. It offers two strategic advantages: one-stop shopping convenience and low-pricing.

The concept is actually two decades old. In the US, where it is called hypermart, Sam Walton of the Wal-mart chain fame, put up one in the early '80s.

In Forbes Greatest Business Stories of All Times, Daniel Gross says Salton decribed his first Hypermart as the "mall without walls."

Gross writes that standard Wal-Marts were build in five sizes depending on the community; the biggest was 60,000 .square feet (about 20,000 square meters). A hypermart, which "sold everything from groceries to haircuts to fishing poles, measured 222,000 square feet (about 70,000 sq. m.)

In the US, Walton evolved his discount store to a hypermart by adding food. In Europe, where the concept is called supercenter, the reverse was made—food establishments added general merchandise to their ware.

The major hypermarket or supercenter operators in the US are Wal-Mart, Taret and Kmart. In the Europe, they are Carrefour and Casino of France, Hypercor of Spain and Sainsbury of the UK.

In either concept the emphasis is carrying fresh goods. It has a wider range of goods than what is traditionally carried by supermarkets and also carries produce found in the wet market.

The first group to put up a supercenter in the country is the Rustan's Supercenters Inc., which opened Shopwise in Alabang in November 1998. Last year it opened another one along Vito Cruz and it hopes to open one this year.

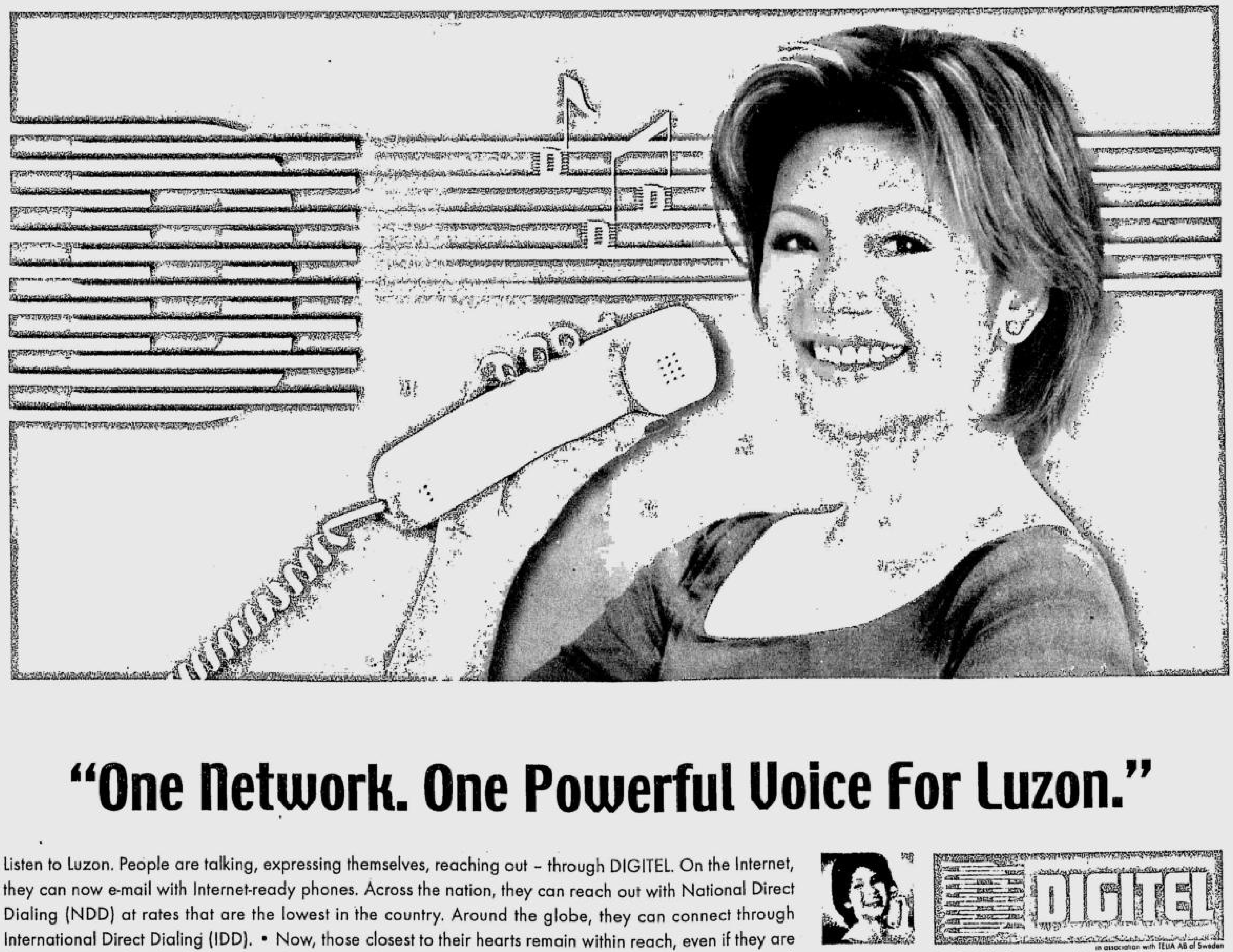
The Gokongweis are trying to follow suit with its Big R in Fairview.

Henry Sy which started the mall craze of the '80s is third with its Super SM along Sucat Avenue which Millie Dizon, senior assistant vice president of SM, describes as "the only hypermart within a mall. It is set to open at the end of the month.

Dizon says SM is venturing into the hypermart business because of the growing lifestyle changes of consumers.

The key to the success of supercenters or hypermarts is not in the number of goods or stock keeping units it has. Rather it is in the mix of food and non-food items that it carries.

The trick is to have a good mix between low-margin items and hi-margin items and one should not sell the full range of choices a brand has but only the best-selling ones.



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An excerpt from real options: A practitioner's guide

SUPPOSE you are planning to drive from Boston to Los Angeles. If you are like us, you will get a map (online from the Internet of course), remember that over long distances the great circle route is actually the shortest distance between two points on the surface of a globe, and you will map out the route along major highways to take advantage of the turnpike theorem which says that it's the best to go a little out of your way to take advantage of higher speed paths.

Off you go, following your carefully mapped route—until you encounter a traffic jam, or unplanned detour. This, of course, is unexpected.

Now think about the analogy with capital budgeting decisions. Net present value, or discounted cash flows, deals only with expected cash flows, discounted at a constant discount rate—constant because risk is assumed to be unchanging during the life of the project.

Using expected cash flows is like assuming that you can drive across the country using your expected route—no detours, no traffic jams, no bad weather, no ability to respond to uncertainty—no flexibility.

A real option is the right, but not the obligation, to take an action (e.g., deferring, expanding, contracting or abandoning a project) at a predetermined cost called the exercise price, for a predetermined period of time—the life of the option.

Executives who are unfamiliar with real options often fail to recognize them. This can be a serious problem.

Flexibility

The advantage of real options is that they capture the value of flexibility. To extend the analogy, a real options approach would anticipate the need to detour from the planned route, and would take along a citizens band radio to facilitate rerouting. The cost of the radio is the exercise price of a real option and the flexibility that it provides has real value—option value.

Real options are classified primarily by the type of flexibility that they offer. For example, an option is just what it seems to be—namely the right, but no obligation to invest in a project at a later date.

A deferral option is an American call option found in most projects. Its exercise price is the money invested in getting the project started. The option to abandon the project for a fixed price (even that price decreases through time) is formally an American put.

So is the option to scale back a project by selling a fraction of it for a fixed price. The option to expand a project by paying more to scale up the operations is an American call. And the option to extend the life of a project by paying an exercise price is an American call.

A switching option is the right to close an operation that is currently open by paying fixed shut-down costs, and the right to open it later for a different fixed cost to a common type of option—actually a portfolio of puts and calls.

Mines, for example, can be shut down as the mineral price falls, then reopened later. Factories (e.g., a General Motors assembly plant) can be shut down when demand falls, then reopened when it picks up. Peak load electricity generators (gas-fired turbines) are turned on during days when the spot price of electricity soars, and are turned off again when it falls.

There are also options—called compound options. Phased investments fit into this category. For example, when you set out to build a factory, you can choose to do so in phases—a design phase, an engineering phase, and construction. You have the option to stop, or defer the project at the end of each phase.

Finally, options that are driven by multiple sources of uncertainty are called rainbow options. Most real options are affected by uncertainty regarding the price of a unit of output, the quantity that might be sold, and by uncertain interest rates that affect the present value of the project. Many real world applications require modeling as compound rainbow options.

An example where executives failed to recognize the value of interest rate options occurred in the life insurance industry. In the late 1960s interest rates were low and had been low for a long time.

As a clause in life insurance policies, life insurance companies granted the policy owners the right to borrow against the cash value of the policy at a fixed rate of interest, say 9 percent, for the life of the policy. Low interest rates, in the 3 to 4 percent range, made it seem that the clause was of little value.

But the life of the option was extremely long for some policyholders. How much is a 50-year option on interest rates worth? The question became more than rhetorical when in the early 1980s, rates of interest of US treasury bills went to 12 or 13 percent.

Even I figured out that I had a risk-free profit if I borrowed at 9 percent from the insurance company and invested it at 12 percent in US treasuries.

Millions of other policyholders also exercised their options and, as a result, several insurance companies went into a default. They failed to realize the option value they were giving up in their rush to sell policies a little over a decade earlier.

Why use real options for evaluating major investment decisions? Because real options analysts value the flexibility to respond to uncertain events—net present value techniques do not and consequently undervalue everything. Is real options more difficult to use? Definitely yes. Based on over 10 years of experience, we have learned how to apply real options to realistic settings.

(Tom Copeland is chief corporate finance officer and head of monitor corporate finance. He has been a consultant to over 200 companies in 34 countries around the world.)

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Days numbered for East Timor currency speculators

DILI—Just down the road from the "Hello Mister" supermarket in the center of East Timor's shattered capital, young men line the street flashing fistfuls of currency, tapping out the latest rates on calculators.

Theirs is one of the more lucrative businesses in the ravaged territory, where a huge UN-run operation pays big dollar wages to expatriate staff but impoverished locals still prefer to deal in the currency of their former Indonesian invaders.

But soon those fists could be waving in anger.

The United Nations-run government, keen to rationalize what is effectively a three-currency economy, has opted to base the economy exclusively on US dollars, a move that threatens to put the young men out of job.

Threatening heavy fines for those who break the new rules, it has banned the use of the Indonesian rupiah and the Australian dollar—although it is concentrating its fire on the rupiah.

No need for charts

The move will be a blow for the well-organized street currency arbitrageurs, who need little help from sophisticated technical charts or incisive analysis.

Their profits come from a gap of close to 10 percent between the cost of rupiah in Indonesia and what they can get for the currency once it is smuggled through the porous border between East and West Timor.

Some diplomats and economists, while praising the move to dollarize the economy, warn it could stoke instability in the territory where emotions are already running high ahead of its first democratic election, set for the end of August.

The big test comes this month as coffee farmers—who produce East Timor's one valuable export commodity—start bringing their crop down from the mountains to find buyers giving them dollars, a currency most have probably never seen before.

"How will farmers react when they get dollars instead of rupiah? The fear is that you will see a flock of money changers who sell rupiah at a bad rate and cost farmers 10 to 15 percent of their income," said one diplomat, fearing riots could follow.

The government is shipping in about $500,000 worth of coins to ensure there is enough small change

But the coins themselves pose a problem, the diplomat said, pointing out that it will be a struggle for East Timor's poorly educated rural community to decipher the value of dimes and quarters—neither of which have any number to show their value

UN dismisses criticism

The UN dismisses the criticism and says there is no real choice, especially after Indonesia effectively banned rupiah moving outside its borders early this year.

"The decision (to dollarize the economy) was taken in early 2000. It's not as if we are rushing implementation," head of the UN administration Sergio Vieira de Mello told Reuters.

He said Indonesia's decision to ban offshore rupiah gave his government no option but to change now and not wait, as some have suggested, for a gradual change.

"East Timorese will be confused but they have to face the confusion .we don't have the luxury to wait for the private sector to do it," he said, clearly irritated by the issue which had become another stick to bash his one-and-a-half-year-old administration with.

The UN took over the running of East Timor late in 1999 after the territory had been almost destroyed by rampaging militia gangs and their Indonesian military backers who bent on revenge against the majority of East Timorese who had voted to end 23 years of often ruthless Indonesian rule. *Reuters*

Biggest fight . . .

(From page C5)

"Online is as important to this generation of consoles as the switch from 2-D to 3-D was in the first generation," says Robert Bach, chief Xbox officer.

Nintendo, meanwhile, will be highlighting its system by promising more titles unique to its GameCube than the game lineups of competitors.

"The only thing consumers need to know is what games they can't get elsewhere," marketing vice president George Harrison said.

Nintendo is counting on that edge to divert attention away from the fact that GameCube has no DVD player. Instead, Nintendo is positioning itself as a pure game company.

"We don't believe in adding costs that consumers aren't necessarily willing to pay for," Harrison said.

Pricing and a release date for the box will be announced in Japan after E3, Harrison said.

"Video games are Nintendo's only business," he said. "We are not just a division like Sony (PlayStation) is, or an interesting initiative on the part of Microsoft; we have to win, and that is always a motivation to win."

Sony, in turn, will use E3 to silence questions about PlayStation 2's initial lack of Internet connectivity, hyping a newly announced partnership between the company and AOL. The joint venture allows PlayStation 2 owners to access AOL through the console.

The importance of all the new consoles isn't limited to stakeholders in the big three companies.

The rest of the video game world, from makers of peripherals to developers of games, is counting heavily on Nintendo, Sony and Microsoft to keep them profitable.

"This is an industry driven entirely by when hardware is released," said Bobby Kotick, chairman and chief executive of software maker Activision of Santa Monica, California.

Many related companies are spreading their bets across two or even three of the new consoles—a sign that no one is sure which hardware maker is going to win during the holiday season.

Accessories maker Mad Catz says it is building control pads, memory cards and other gadgets for all three boxes. In the months ahead, the company intends to unveil 30 new products and expects its sales to rise at least 20 percent this year because of the new consoles.

"If you look at the buyer psychology in the last year or two, everyone holds off buying new games and waits and starts saving their money for the next system that comes out," said Darren Richardson, president and chief operating officer of Mad Catz in San Diego.

The battle also holds great importance for Internet companies and their customers, a situation made even more clear by the recent Sony-America Online partnership that will allow PlayStation 2 users to exchange instant messages and e-mails.

Within three years, more people will be using their consoles than their PCs to reach the Internet, according to a new report by New York-based research firm Datamonitor. *AP*

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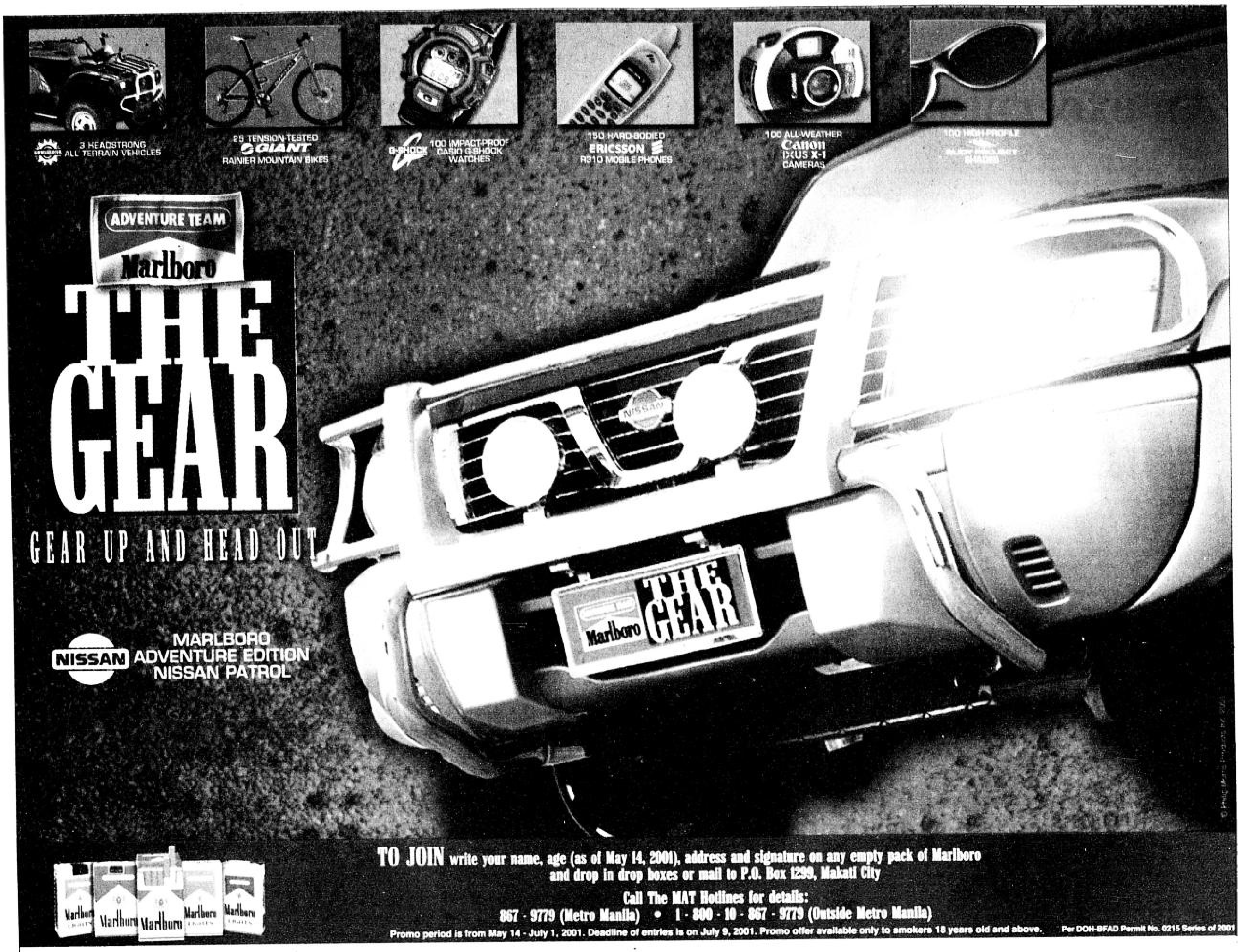
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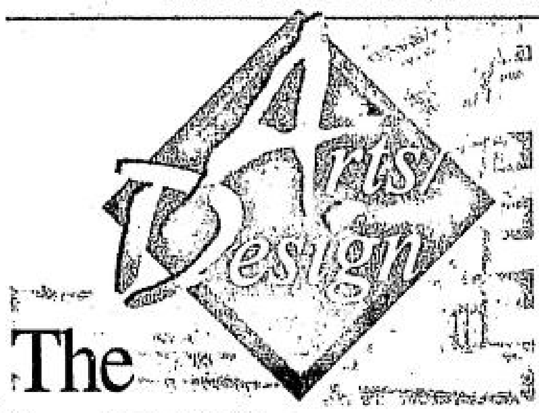

The slow but sure work of reviving the Pasig

Story on page D4

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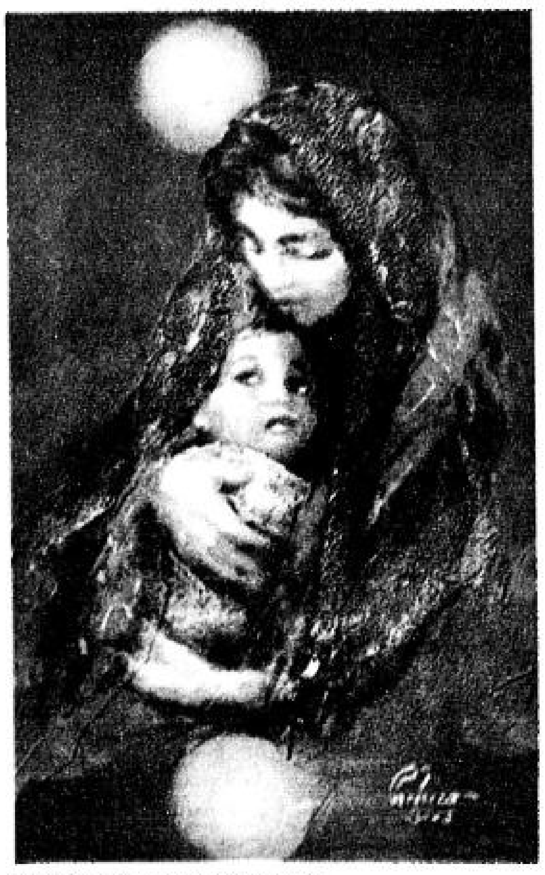
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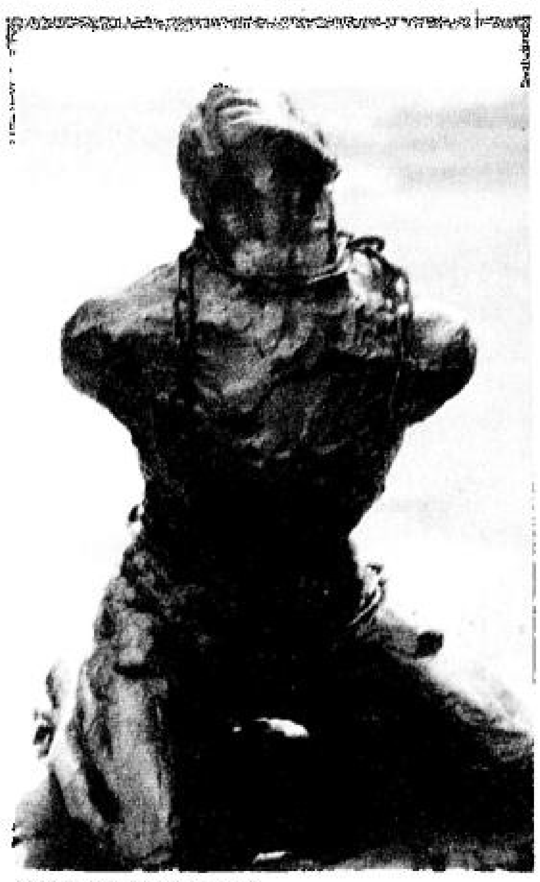
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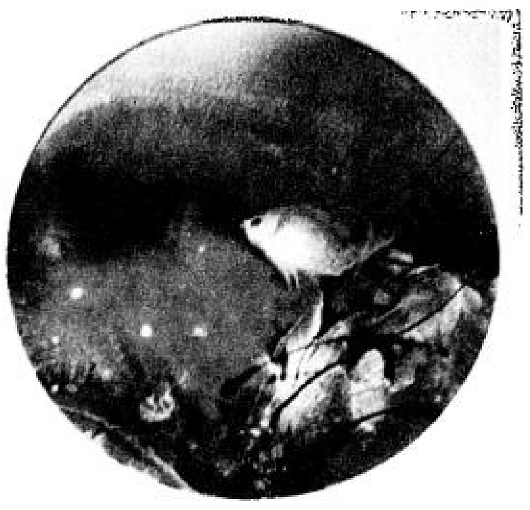
"BLUE World VI"

IT would have been an excellent chance to demonstrate his unique art. On April 29, finger-painting maestro Rafael Pacheco was supposed to join the "Interaction Day" of artists as part of "Sundays at the Malacañang Gardens."

But the affair was put off because of the rabble-rousing fury that threatened the very foundations of the newly established reform government of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

On May 20, Pacheco will make a call for peace and reconciliation through "Blue World," a showcase of his latest canvases and sculptures. The works tackle anguish over the Filipino condition, the preservation of the environment, belief in human redemption, devotion to the iconic Cross of salvation, the Mother and Child, and appreciation of the ultimate creation, the human body, in all its natural splendor. The show lasts until June 2 at the Art Center of SM Megamall.

Several works are Pacheco's newest visions of the undersea world, hence the title of the exhibit, though the artist stresses that blue is also the color of peace. One painting in this particular series was sent to London last year as a gift from environmentalist Leonarda Camacho to fellow environmentalist Prince Charles, and it now forms part of the private art collection of the heir to the British throne.

"Blue World" but will also feature a daily schedule of workshops and lectures as part of Pacheco's Artreach Program. Call 634-2422 or 635-4573.

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	OZAMIZ	SUN	2:00 PM	TUE	6:00 AM	STA. ANA
	ILIGAN	SUN	2:00 PM	TUE	12:00 NN	STA. ANA
	GENERAL SANTOS	MON	7:00 PM	THU	9:00 AM	ST. EZEKIEL
	CAGAYAN DE ORO	MON	7:00 PM	WED	5:00 AM	ST. PETER
	(May 18 only)	FRI	8:00 PM	SUN	9:00 AM	MARY QUEEN
	(May 25 only)	FRI	7:00 PM	SUN	11:00 AM	SAN LORENZO
TO MANILA	BACOLOD	SUN	12:00 NN	MON	11:00 AM	ST. JOSEPH
		MON	12:00 NN	TUE	9:00 AM	SAN PAOLO
		WED	10:00 AM	THU	5:00 AM	ST. JOSEPH
		THU	11:00 AM	FRI	6:00 AM	ST. PETER
		FRI	11:00 AM	SAT	6:00 AM	ST. JOSEPH
	(May 19 only)	SAT	6:00 AM	SUN	4:00 PM	SAN LORENZO
	ILOILO	SUN	4:00 PM	MON	11:00 AM	ST. JOSEPH
	(May 21 only)	MON	11:00 AM	TUE	6:00 AM	MARY QUEEN
	(May 28 only)	MON	12:00 NN	TUE	10:00 AM	SAN LORENZO
		WED	9:00 AM	THU	5:00 PM	STA. ANA
	(May 17 only)	THU	7:00 PM	FRI	12:00 NN	MARY QUEEN
	(May 24 & 31 only)	THU	3:00 PM	FRI	1:00 PM	SAN LORENZO
		SAT	1:00 PM	SUN	11:00 AM	ST. EZEKIEL
	(May 19 only)	SAT	9:00 AM	SUN	4:00 PM	SAN LORENZO
	CEBU	SAT	10:00 PM	SUN	7:00 PM	ST. PETER
	(May 25 only limited pax)	FRI	12:00 NN	SAT	11:00 PM	SAN PAOLO
	(May 27 only)	SUN	5:00 PM	MON	4:00 PM	ST. PETER
	TAGBILARAN	SAT	4:00 PM	SUN	7:00 PM	ST. PETER
	(May 22 only)	TUE	6:00 PM	WED	8:00 PM	SAN LORENZO
	DUMAGUETE (May 22 only)	TUE	1:00 PM	WED	8:00 PM	SAN LORENZO
	(May 18 only)	FRI	10:00 AM	SAT	1:00 PM	SAN PAOLO
	(May 25 only limited pax)	FRI	8:00 PM	SAT	11:00 PM	SAN PAOLO
	ROXAS	MON	12:00 NN	TUE	6:00 AM	PRINCESS OF NEGROS
		WED	6:00 PM	THU	12:00 NN	PRINCESS OF NEGROS
		SAT	12:00 NN	SUN	6:00 AM	PRINCESS OF NEGROS
	ESTANCIA	WED	11:00 AM	THU	12:00 NN	PRINCESS OF NEGROS
	PALAWAN	FRI	9:00 PM	SAT	9:00 PM	STA. ANA
	NASIPIT (Except May 24)	THU	5:00 PM	SAT	1:00 PM	SAN PAOLO
	ZAMBOANGA	FRI	6:00 PM	SUN	11:00 AM	ST. EZEKIEL
	OZAMIZ	TUE	10:00 AM	THU	5:00 AM	STA. ANA
	ILIGAN	TUE	4:00 PM	THU	5:00 AM	STA. ANA
	GENERAL SANTOS	THU	10:00 PM	SUN	11:00 AM	ST. EZEKIEL
	DO (May 20 only)	SUN	5:00 PM	TUE	6:00 AM	MARY QUEEN
	(May 27 only)	SUN	7:00 PM	TUE	10:00 AM	SAN LORENZO
		WED	6:00 PM	FRI	6:00 AM	ST. PETER

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NASIPIT/BUTUAN (085)341-3102 * PALAWAN (048)433-7204
TAGBILARAN (038) 235-4422 * DUMAGUETE (035) 225-6765
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M/V San Sebastian * M/V Connie II

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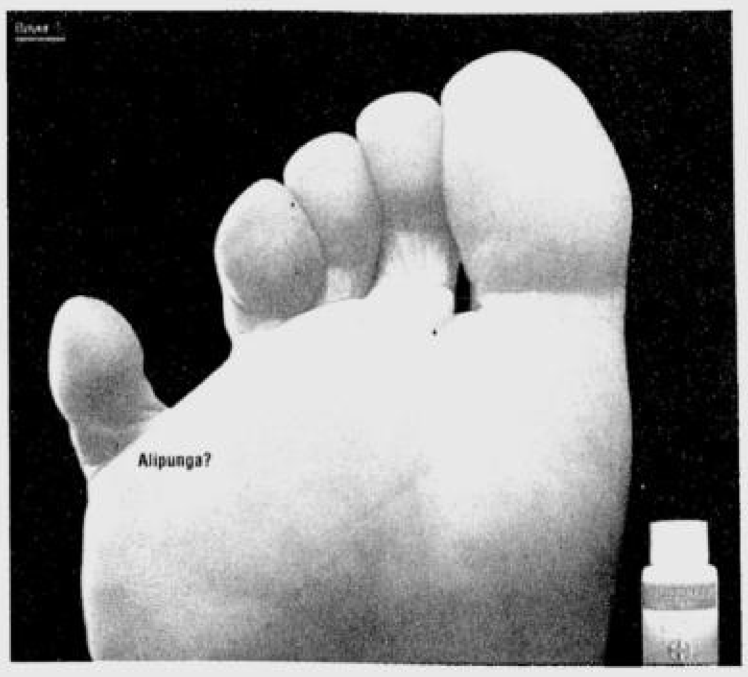

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The slow but sure work of reviving the Pasig

THIS has to be cleared to allow safe navigation.

THE FERRY system has to be revived to ease the perennial traffic problem.

SPACED OUT

Augusto F. Villalon

MANILA tends to forget many of its urban resources. The Pasig is one of them. However, the recent "Kumusta Ka Na, Ilog Pasig?" conference showed that the Pasig is very much in the public's mind. In fact, there is a broad range of activities by different national and international agencies to revive the Pasig.

The joint interventions of the Clean and Green Foundation and the Piso Para sa Pasig began under the initiative of former First Lady Amelita Ramos. The project could not be finished during the Ramos administration, so the Estrada government continued the rehabilitation work through the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission. After the latest change in government, the new co-chairs of the project are Ms Ramos and First Gentleman lawyer Miguel Arroyo. The work of rehabilitating the Pasig continues.

One look at the Pasig tells us that the revival process will not be completed during the term of this administration. In our culture that sees new administrations routinely scrap projects initiated by their predecessors, the fact that the Pasig rehabilitation project has continued through three administrations demonstrates the deep public commitment to revive the Pasig.

The core of the Pasig rehabilitation project is to improve the quality of life in Manila, and the plan to string 12 parks along the banks of the Pasig River seeks to provide breathing space to a congested city that is bursting at its seams.

The easement along both banks of the river will be developed into a ribbon of interconnected parks along the banks between Del Pan to Ayala Bridges where six parks are planned. A promenade area dotted with cafés will rise at the Muelle del Banco Nacional. Other promenades are planned at the Muelle de la Industria and Fort Santiago. Parks will be developed at the Muelle del Rio, Quinta Market, Barangay San Agustin, Sta. Ana Market, West Rembo, Barangay Pineda and J.P. Rizal across Rockwell Center.

No less than a riverside park of international standard is being planned. The park design includes unified directional and informational signage, landscaping, outdoor furniture, lighting, and will include promenade areas, play areas, walkways, cafés, refreshment kiosks and public toilets. Once in place, this park system will make the quality of Manila life much better than what it is.

However, the parks are really the icing on the Pasig cake. The point is to get the parks built.

As part of the groundwork, a partnership was formed by the Clean and Green Foundation with the Archdiocese of Manila through Caritas-Manila, to raise the awareness of riverside residents to change the state of the Pasig. Their first project is a contest for the cleanest and greenest barangay along the Pasig, San Juan and Marikina riverbanks.

To clear the site for the riverbank parks, the informal settlers have to be resettled in specially constructed housing sites. Social services and facilities has to be provided within the new housing sites, some of them including schools, medical centers, activity centers, livelihood-training programs and transportation cooperatives This program is really the heart of the Pasig project, a people-oriented relocation program that centers on uplifting the living standard of the residents.

Clearing the Pasig is needed to allow safe navigation along the river and so that a ferry system could be used to transport urbanites. As of December 2000, a total of 36 derelicts were identified in the river. At this date, 32 have been removed.

Cleanliness of the water is crucial to public health. However, cleanliness also helps prevent flooding, another perennial Pasig problem. The removal of debris is a constant battle There is also the huge amount of solid waste dumped by the informal residents along the riverbanks each day.

Dredging and sanitation works have started in the area between Del Pan and Jones Bridges, only a 1.5-km stretch of the river but where siltation is at its worst. Initial plans have been submitted for the improvement of the Pasig-San Juan-Markina River channels, a 30-km long project that, if all the requirements are in place, is scheduled to be completed in 2004.

Other flood-control projects are the rehabilitation and improvement of the Flood Control Operation and Warning System at the Pasig-Marikina-Laguna Lake Watershed, a grant from the Japan International Cooperation Agency that targets the rehabilitation of 15 existing stations and construction of seven new stations.

Disaster flood control has been completed in Malacañang, West Rembo in Makati, and initiated in Makati-Mandaluyong, Del Pan Bridge and in the lower San Juan River.

The battle against industrial pollution is intensifying, with notices being served to violators. As of Nov. 30, 2000, a total of 534 enforcements were carried out, although, to the untrained eye, a look at the state of the polluted water tells that the battle has only just begun. Water samples are constantly being taken and analyzed to ensure that the measures to revive the Pasig are taking effect.

So the riverbank parks are really the icing on the cake. So much multidisciplinary work must be completed before the river comes back to life. Experiences from other rivers that have undergone rehabilitation show that the Pasig is on the right track. The Chao Phya River in Bangkok is now the centerpiece of the city, having gone through an intense rehabilitation program. Another model is the San Antonio River in Texas, where an urban redevelopment plan followed a thorough rehabilitation that refocused the city toward the river. A riverside promenade connects a system of parks, promenades, commercial and cultural centers, all within strolling or ferry reach of each other.

It takes vision and determination to get our Pasig back. Thank God that the Clean and Green Foundation has got it.

Take a good look at the Pasig next time you come close to it, remember that the development plans for the river are in full swing but that results will be slow in coming. See in your mind that it is on its way to becoming a great river once again. You may want to roll up your sleeves and physically contribute some work into reviving it. If not, then a monetary contribution will do—call the Clean and Green Foundation at 528-0976 or 528-0491, or e-mail them at cgfi@epic.net and they will tell you where to send your checks.

E-mail the author at afv@pacific.net.ph

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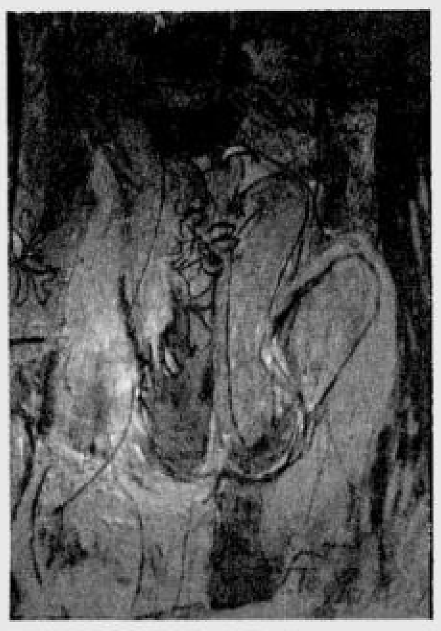
Montemayor at West Gallery; 'Unang Hagod' at Nemiranda Arthouse

NOTED visual artist Ferdinand Montemayor will hold his eight one-man show dubbed "One Day, Isang Bayan" at the West Gallery, 4/L SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, from May 24 to June 5. Call 634-1284.

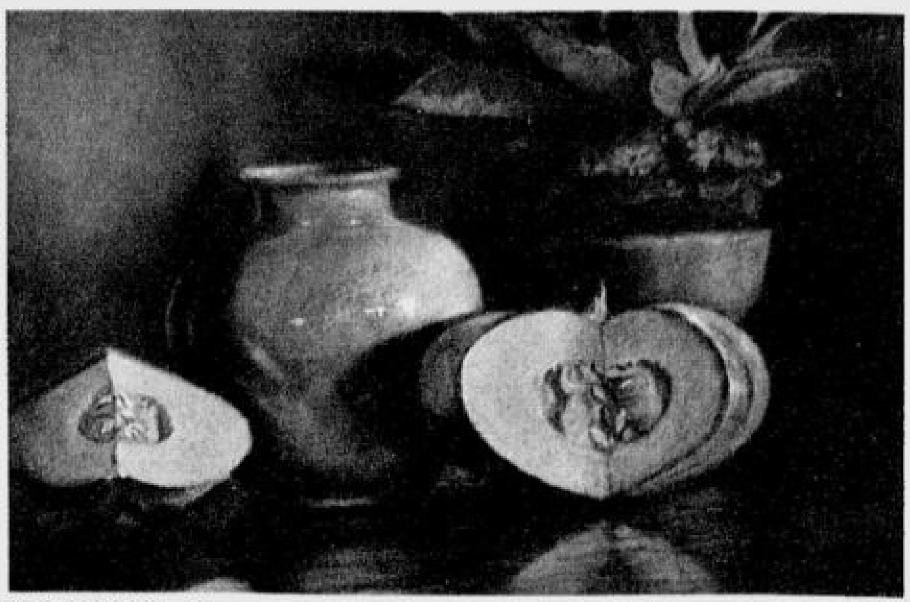
VISUAL ARTS

GROUP EXHIBIT. The Nemiranda Art House presents "Unang Hagod," a group exhibit by five talented young artists—Jojo Austria, Jeffrey Belen, Leo Castillo III, Paul Greco Miranda and Andrew Carter Tee. The show opens today and runs until May 31. Nemiranda Arthouse Gallery is at 4/L SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City. Call 634-1744.

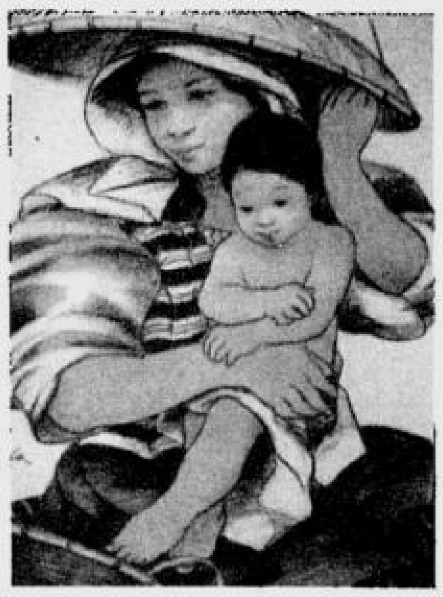
'SURROUNDED' AT CPP. "Surrounded," a visual art exhibit curated by Roberto Chabet and Nilo Ilarde, is currently on view at the Bulwagang Juan Luna, Main Gallery of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Participating artists include Victor Balanon, Jonathan Ching, Mariano Ching, Lena Cobangbarig, Louie Corders, Christina Dy, Eduardo Enriquez, Lyra Abueg Garcellano, Nona Garcia, Geraldine Javier, Katrina Miranda, Michael Munoz, Gary-Ross Pastrana, Yasmin Sison, Wire Tuazon and Alvin Villaruel. The exhibit runs until June 28.



"EXPRESSIONS of Exuberance and Love," a one-woman show by Grace Taylor-Katigbak featuring extra-large canvases of vivid, sprawling and free feeling still life and human figures, on view at Gallery Nine, 150 Jupiter St., Bel-Air. Call 899-2704



"BAHANDI," a three-man group of artists of Visayan roots, will hold their first self-titled exhibit tomorrow at the Waling-Waling Beach Resort, Boracay, Aklan. The group is composed of Bernardo Cuizon Hermoso of Davao City, Celso Pepito of Cebu City and Karlo Arceno of Roxas City. "Bahandi," which is Visayan for treasure, captures in paint the rich cultural heritage of Boracay and other Philippine destinations. Guest of honor at the exhibit opening is Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste. Above is Hermoso's pastel painting "Kalabasa."



"MOTHER and Child" by Robert Nubla on view at PGH until May 26

Call 832-3702 or 724-2027.

EXHIBITS AT BOSTON GALLERY. "Walking on Eggshells," a one-man show in mixed media by Jerome Italic, and "Emo," a group show featuring artists Carlo Gabuco, C.J. Tanedo and Christopher Zamora, will open simultaneously on May 26 at the Boston Gallery. The exhibit runs until June 16. Call 722-9205.

EXHIBIT AT PGH. The Cancer Institute-ASJCC of the Philippine General Hospital and The Choice Expression Gallery present an art exhibition at the Central Block Lobby of Philippine General Hospital on Taft Avenue, Manila. Dubbed "A Glimpse of Love for a Woman," the exhibit features the works of various Filipino artists Hermes Alegre, Rafael Cusi and Robert Nubla. The exhibit runs until May 26. Call 670-2362.

PERUVIAN PAINTINGS AT THE MET. For the first time, Peruvian paintings will be on exhibit at the Catwalk of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila beginning May 25. Dubbed "Circunstancias de la Vida: An Exhibition of Peruvian Paintings," the exhibit features contemporary works of 39 Peruvian artists. The exhibit runs until June 16. Call 523-7855.

HANS BRUMANN AT THE LOPEZ MUSEUM. Jeweler Hans Brumann unveils his latest artistic creations in a special exhibit dubbed "Horizon" at the Lopez Museum Shop. The exhibit runs until May 29. Call 898-0981.

WORKSHOP. The Young Advocates with Parents, the Family Magazine, is inviting kids to join "Young Advocates Color My World," a children's on-the-spot art challenge on May 24, 1 p.m., at the Children's Library, Robinsons Place, Imus Cavite. Registration is now ongoing at the Children's Library. Call the Young Advocates at 747-6150.

WORKSHOP. Faber Castell offers a series of art workshops for kids aged 7-11 years old. The workshops will be held on May 25, 2-5 p.m., at the Museong Pambata, Roxas Boulevard corner South Drive, Manila; June 1, 2-5 p.m., Ayala Museum, Makati and June 2, 9 a.m.-12 nn, at the Filipinas Heritage Library in Makati. Well-known artists and art educators Fernando B. Sena, Deon Nacario and To Austria will be conducting the workshops. Call 361-7391/92 or 361-7395/96.

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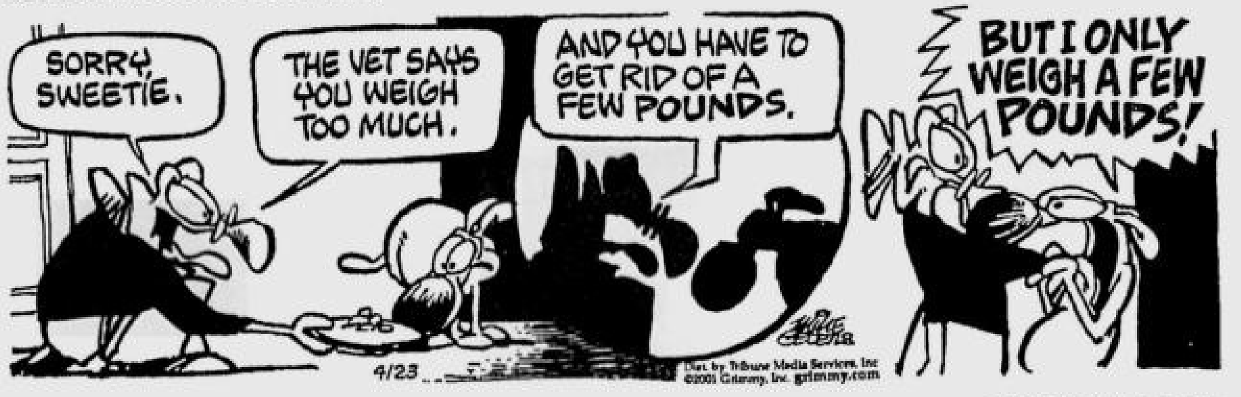
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SORRY, SWEETIE.
THE VET SAYS YOU WEIGH TOO MUCH.
AND YOU HAVE TO GET RID OF A FEW POUNDS.
BUT I ONLY WEIGH A FEW POUNDS!
4/23
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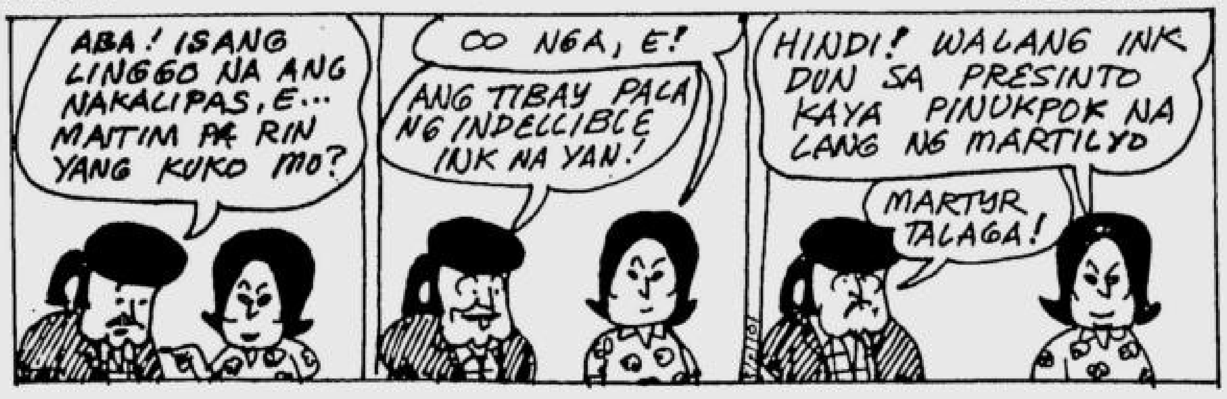
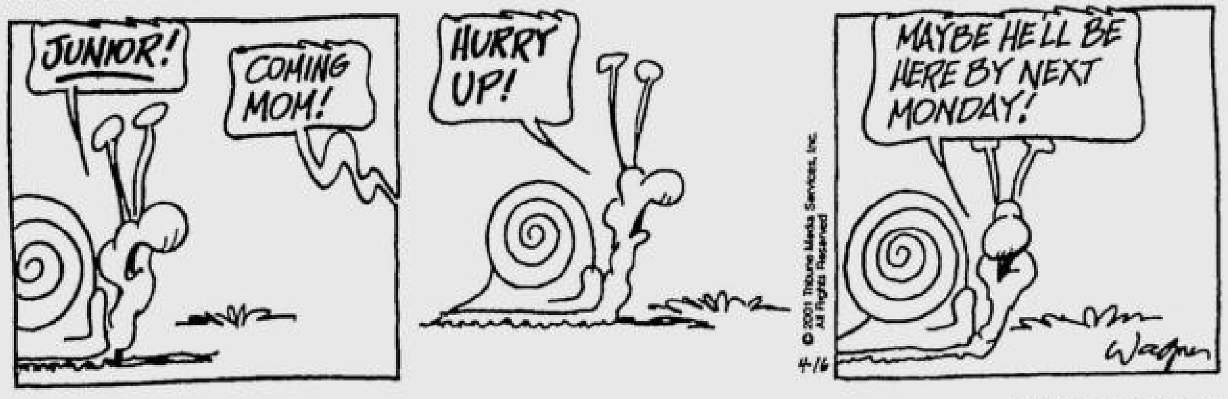
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ABA! ISANG LINGGO NA ANG NAKALIPAS, E... MAITIM PA RIN YANG KUKO MO?
OO NGA, E!
ANG TIBAY PALA NG INDELLIBLE INK NA YAN!
HINDI! WALANG INK DUN SA PRESINTO KAYA PINUKPOK NA LANG NG MARTILYO
MARTYR TALAGA!

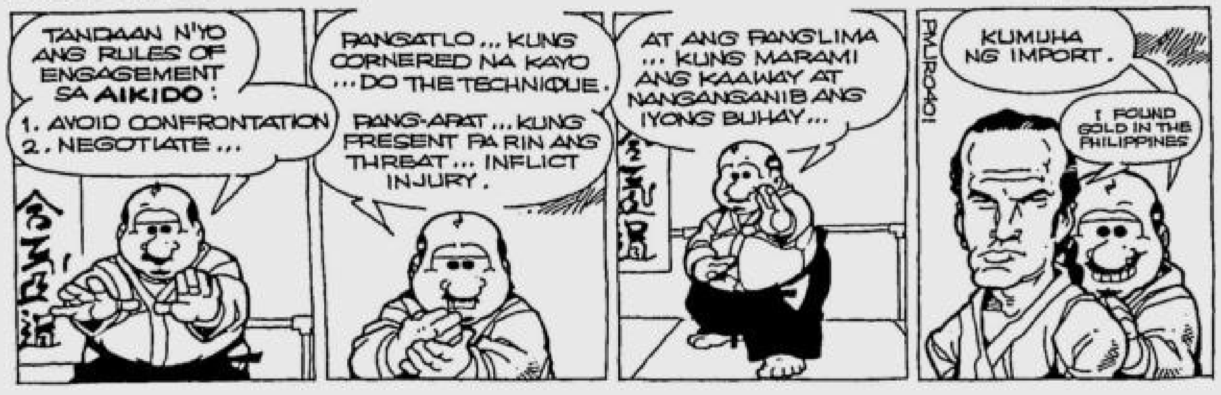
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


JUNIOR!
COMING MOM!
HURRY UP!
© 2001 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved
4-16
MAYBE HE'LL BE HERE BY NEXT MONDAY!
Wagner

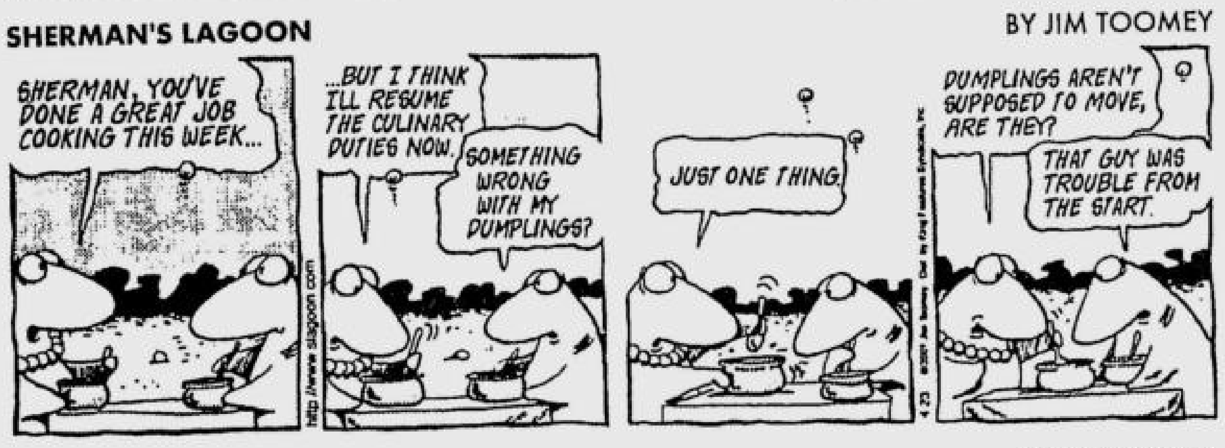
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TANDAAN N'YO ANG RULES OF ENGAGEMENT SA AIKIDO:
1. AVOID CONFRONTATION
2. NEGOTIATE...
PANGATLO... KUNG CORNERED NA KAYO ...DO THE TECHNIQUE.
PANG-APAT... KUNG PRESENT PA RIN ANG THREAT... INFLICT INJURY.
AT ANG PANG'LIMA ... KUNG MARAMI ANG KAAWAY AT NANGANGANIB ANG IYONG BUHAY...
PMJR0401
KUMUHA NG IMPORT.
I FOUND GOLD IN THE PHILIPPINES

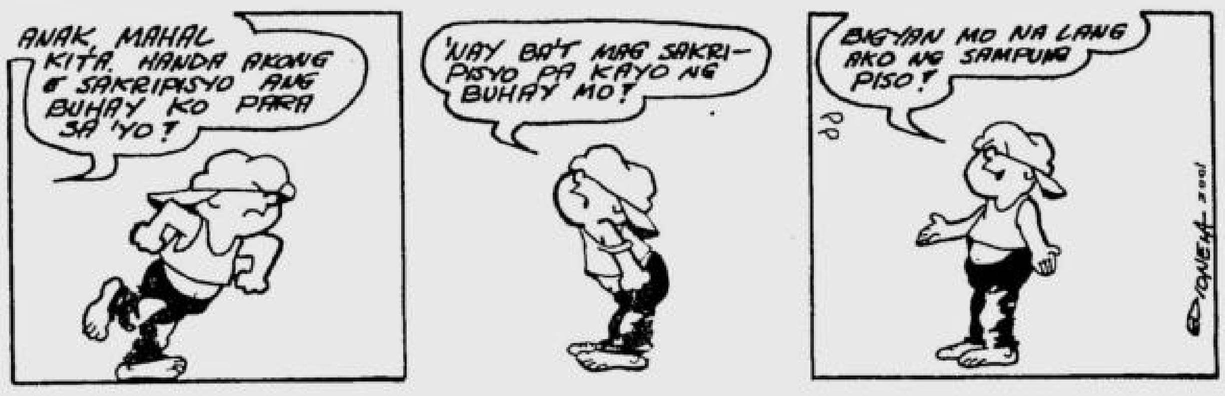
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, YOU'VE DONE A GREAT JOB COOKING THIS WEEK...
...BUT I THINK I'LL RESUME THE CULINARY DUTIES NOW.
SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY DUMPLINGS?
JUST ONE THING.
DUMPLINGS AREN'T SUPPOSED TO MOVE, ARE THEY?
THAT GUY WAS TROUBLE FROM THE START.
http://www.slagoon.com

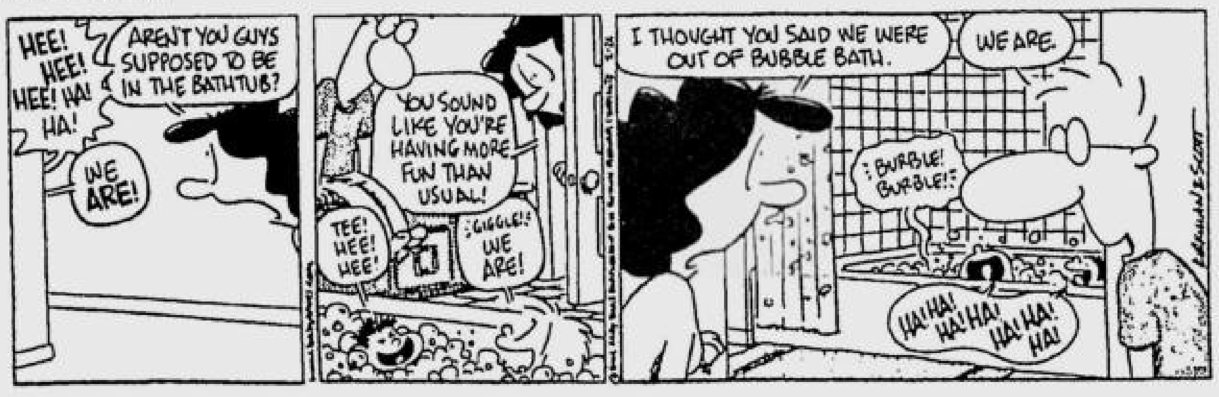
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ANAK, MAHAL KITA. HANDA AKONG ISAKRIPISYO ANG BUHAY KO PARA SA 'YO!
'NAY BA'T MAG SAKRIPISYO PA KAYO NG BUHAY MO?
BIGYAN MO NA LANG AKO NG SAMPUNG PISO!
DIONELA 2001

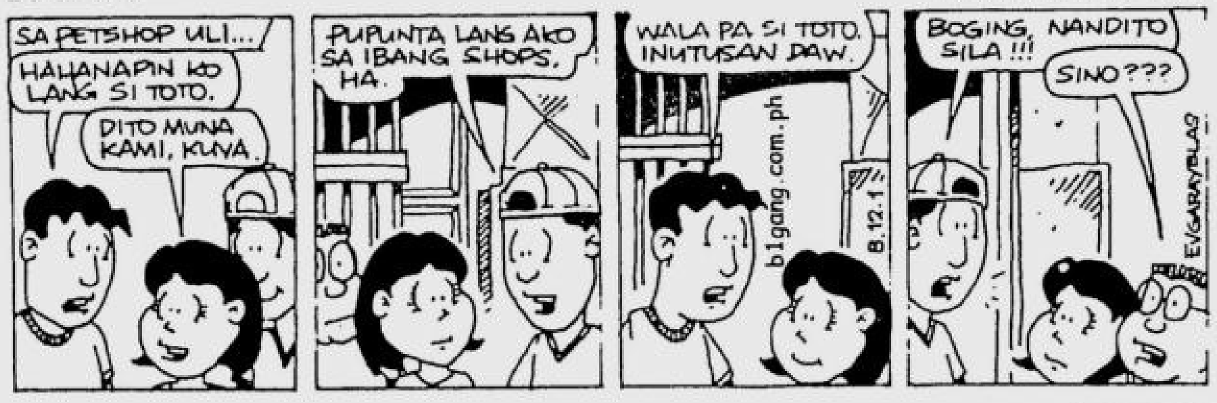
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


HEE! HEE! HEE! HA! HA!
AREN'T YOU GUYS SUPPOSED TO BE IN THE BATHTUB?
WE ARE!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE HAVING MORE FUN THAN USUAL!
TEE! HEE! HEE!
GIGGLE! WE ARE!
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE WERE OUT OF BUBBLE BATH.
WE ARE.
BURBLE! BURBLE!
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

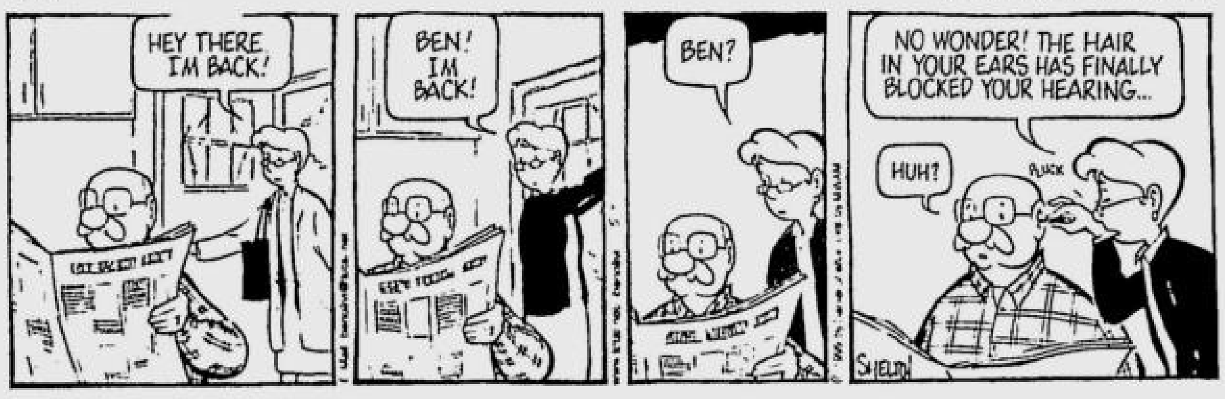
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SA PETSHOP ULI...
HAHANAPIN KO LANG SI TOTO.
DITO MUNA KAMI, KUYA.
PUPUNTA LANG AKO SA IBANG SHOPS, HA.
WALA PA SI TOTO. INUTUSAN DAW.
b1gang.com.ph
8.12.1
BOGING, NANDITO SILA!!!
SINO???
EVGARAYBLAS

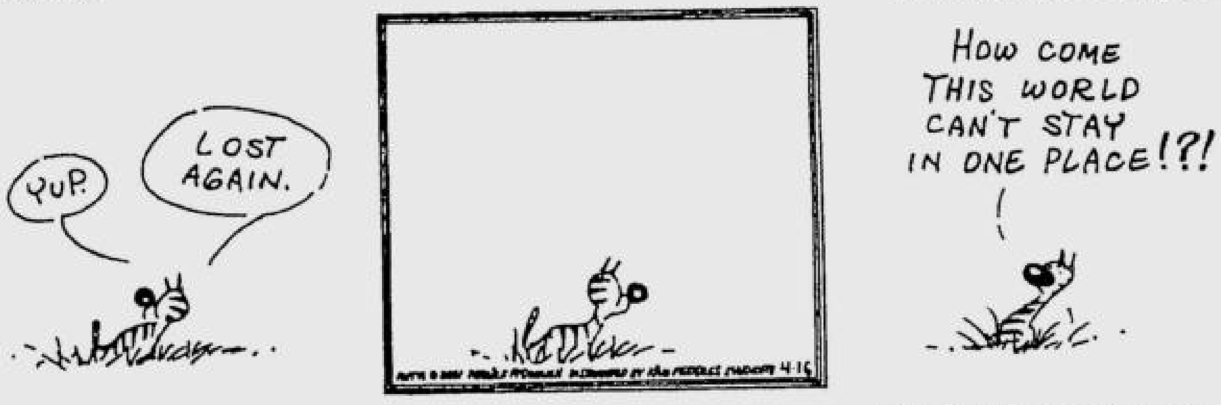
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


HEY THERE. I'M BACK!
BEN! I'M BACK!
BEN?
NO WONDER! THE HAIR IN YOUR EARS HAS FINALLY BLOCKED YOUR HEARING...
HUH?
PLUCK
SHELTON

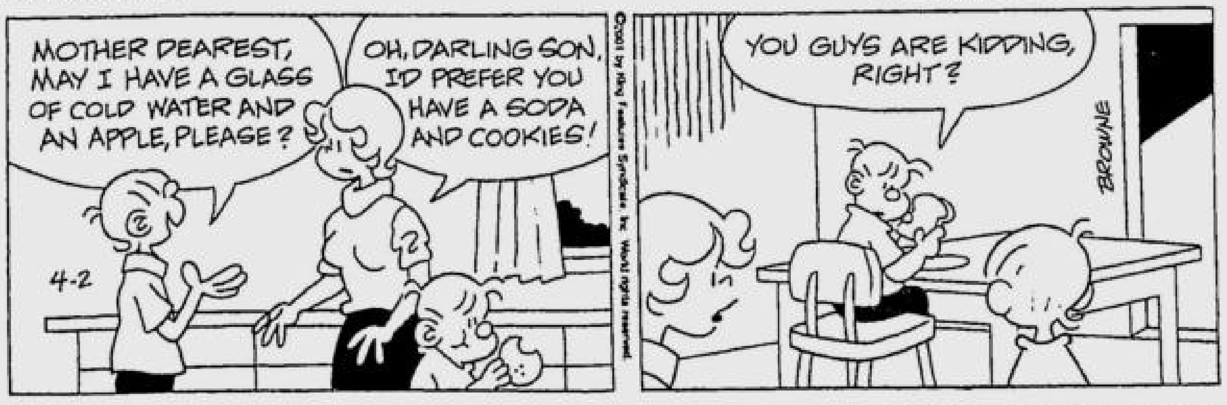
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YUP.
LOST AGAIN.
HOW COME THIS WORLD CAN'T STAY IN ONE PLACE!?!
4-16

HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MOTHER DEAREST, MAY I HAVE A GLASS OF COLD WATER AND AN APPLE, PLEASE?
OH, DARLING SON, I'D PREFER YOU HAVE A SODA AND COOKIES!
4-2
YOU GUYS ARE KIDDING, RIGHT?
BROWNE
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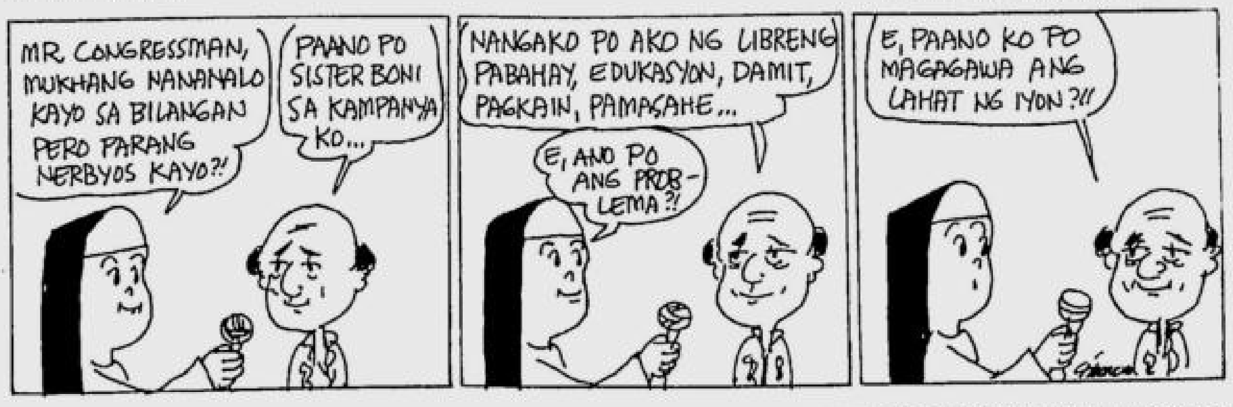
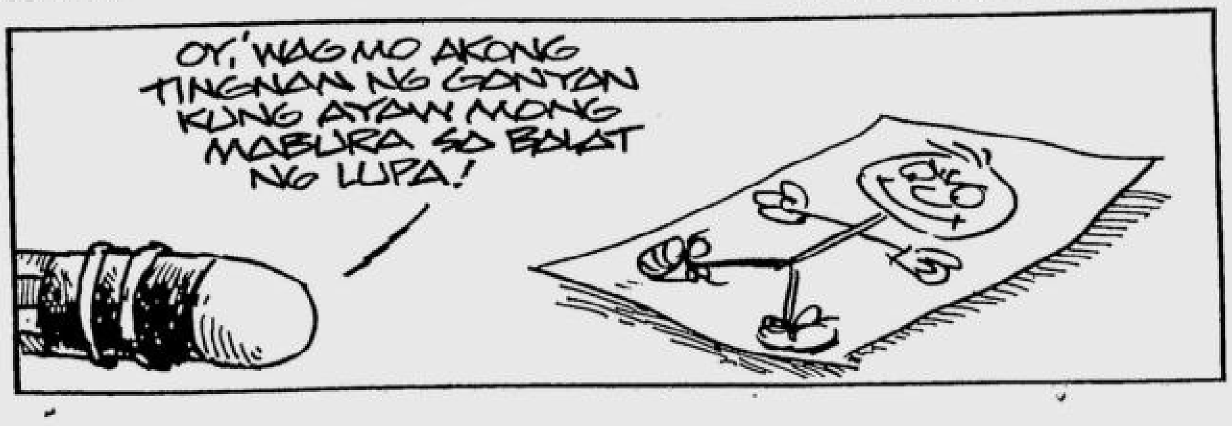
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MR. CONGRESSMAN, MUKHANG NANANALO KAYO SA BILANGAN PERO PARANG NERBYOS KAYO?!
PAANO PO SISTER BONI SA KAMPANYA KO...
NANGAKO PO AKO NG LIBRENG PABAHAY, EDUKASYON, DAMIT, PAGKAIN, PAMASAHE...
E, ANO PO ANG PROBLEMA?!
E, PAANO KO PO MAGAGAWA ANG LAHAT NG IYON?!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


OY, 'WAG MO AKONG TINGNAN NG GANYAN KUNG AYAW MONG MABURA SA BALAT NG LUPA!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Fats Waller, Raymond Burr, Harold Robbins, Mr. T, Fairuza Balk

Happy Birthday: It's time to get down to business. Stop letting your personal interfere with your professional life. You must separate the two and wholeheartedly do your best for each one. You can have it all, but first decide on your priorities before organizing yourself and your time better. This is the year to make it or break it, not to take risks. Your numbers: 5, 12, 20, 23, 28, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your innovative ideas and energetic nature will help put your ideas into motion. Don't be angry with those who don't show the same excitement regarding your projects.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be sensitive to the comments made by loved ones. Try not to jump to conclusions. You'll be so wrapped up in your own problems that you are likely to take loved ones for granted.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't give up just because you come up against opposition. Your ability to outmaneuver will help you overcome any obstacle that stands in your way as long as you don't get angry.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't bite off too much financially. Unexpected bills will be sure to surface. Losses are evident if you aren't careful where you leave your belongings. Don't let anyone take advantage of you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You will be looking for a good fight if things don't go your way. Remember that you can't make decisions for other people even if you did pay their way. You can't buy love or friendship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will be able to get your point across. Don't hesitate to take that business trip you've been thinking about. The time to make deals is now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't sign anything unless you understand the repercussions. It is best to hold tight and observe what everyone else is doing. You can gain some insight if you talk to those with experience.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Sudden romantic infatuations may send you for a loop. You must take your time if you wish things to work in your favor. Be honest and direct and don't be afraid to ask the necessary questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Find out all you can about your present position and the changes going on around you. Work hard to complete projects that might make a difference to your professional future.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get busy talking to those individuals who can offer you mental stimulation. You will be in a competitive mood, and any debate that comes your way will be welcomed.

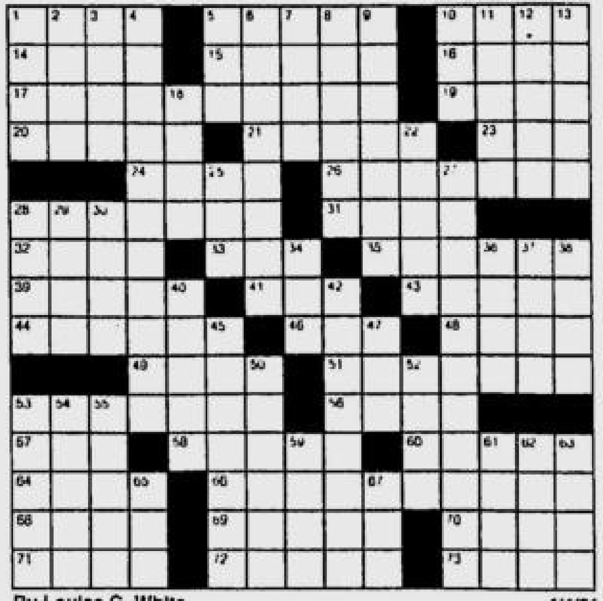
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't bend to other people's whims. Make the necessary changes. You may get a negative response from family. If they can't come up with a better solution, continue with your plans.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to get out and meet new people. Put some excitement back in your life, but don't overspend to impress others.

Birthday Baby: You have lots of pizzazz tempered by caution. You are playful, witty and bright. You will entertain others with your candor. You are a doer and an achiever.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Louise G. White
St. Petersburg, FL

4/4/01

ACROSS
1 Pass over lightly
5 After: Fr.
10 Slam loudly
14 Fairy-tale opener
15 Actress Dunne
16 Gelling agent
17 Sole crossing?
19 Verdi opera
20 Doubleday of baseball
21 Seashore
23 Ullmann or Tyler
24 Powerful stench
26 Comestibles store
28 Too old
31 Eliel's son
32 Lo-cal
33 California fort
35 Hosed down
39 Celebes oxen
41 Distress signal
43 Maliciously derogatory
44 Henry and Peter
46 With what intention
48 Genealogical diagram
49 French state
51 Back part
53 Automaker Enzo
56 Like ABC?
57 Zodiac sign
58 Nuzzled
60 Kill, old-style
64 Modern Persia
66 Picket-fence parts?
68 September's number
69 Bancroft and Meara
70 Uris or Trotsky
71 Take a sample
72 Requires
73 In __ (existing): Lat.

DOWN
1 Couch
2 Dial control
3 Laptop image
4 Cab driver, at times?
5 Broadcast
6 Small thorns
7 Try again
8 Take part (in)
9 Blows one's stack
10 Call for ewe
11 Nimble
12 Opposite of zenith
13 Word with train or boat
18 La __ Tar Pits
22 Spanish bulls
25 Self-esteem
27 Down the road a piece?
28 King of Norway
29 In __ veritas
30 Jacket type
34 Chemical giant
36 Pass on male genes
37 Adam's birthplace
38 Exploit
40 Personification of evil
42 Cut into irregular strips
45 1940 Pulitzer winner
47 Affirmative vote
50 Herbal infusion
52 Helper: abbr.
53 Spark producer
54 Spooky
55 Chestnut-and-white horses
59 Sea eagle
61 Freezes
62 Boxing wins: abbr.
63 Medieval slave
65 Snare
67 Draft letters

SATURDAY PUZZLE ANSWER

C	R	O	C		D	I	G	S		D	I	R	G	E
L	E	M	A		E	C	R	U		A	V	A	I	L
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W	A	G	E	R	I	N	G	A	B	U	N	D	L	E
S	P	A	R	E	S		S	N	O	B				
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A	T	S	E	A		R	E	N	O		A	M	I	E
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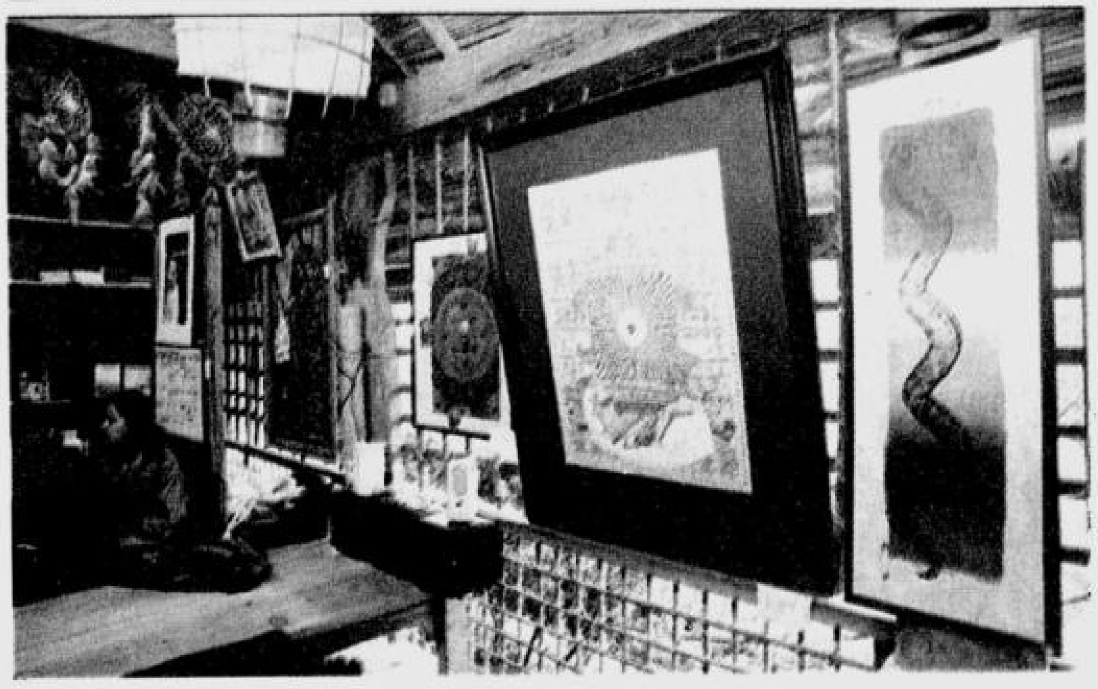


TREASURE TROVE. Art *hanggang sawa*

Maze of installations . . .

(From page D8)

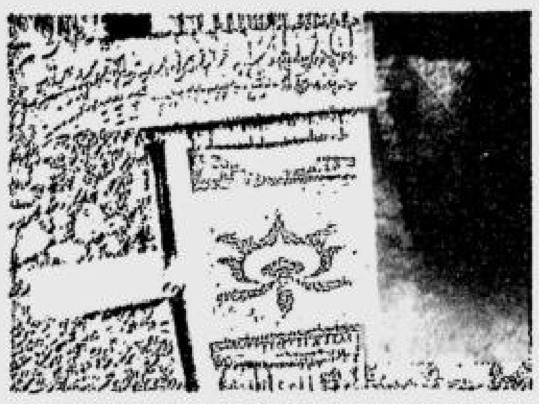
though I may have been mistaken, breathless as I was with excitement.

The other huts in the village are in the traditional Cordillera style, long-limbed and snug, graceful with their long posts and homey in their cozy, woodsy comforts on the framed landing above. These traditional huts are for rent, and come with their own sanitary toilets a spitting distance away. (The board-and-lodging arrangements are very reasonable, if you're not too picky. Perfect for adventurous honeymooners.)

On our first visit there, the chatty woman who showed us around the place insisted we go through the maze of on-site installations spread out all over the landscape. There were frenzied stone formations, papier mâché eggs cradled on a giant nest, a fish pond swaddled with a fish net. There was John Frank Sabado's witty web of dreams. There even was a labyrinth made by a visiting Japanese artist; it was constructed out of bamboo sticks and pages of Japanese newspapers: you wedge yourself in, wade through the tunnel of paper walls and come out in another part of the hill.

What I liked the most, though, was a solitary bench at a precipitous promontory, which lops off into a sheer fall down the road. The bench wasn't an installation, of course, just part of the village's facilities. Even as the bench dangled the threat of a mortal fall, it also offered solace and serenity. It was a gift of space, a space one can claim one's own and yet a space that nonetheless goes beyond the immediacy of the moment and hurtles you into other landscapes—a haphazard mountain range of memories and possibilities. And energies.

This is what Tam-awan is about, to soak in the spirit of the place, to be rooted, to sail with the wind, to find one's moorings, to recharge one's creative energies, to string up various experiences into a meaningful whole, to become, to just be.



ARTISTS' VILLAGE. BenCab's new hideaway

I thought of performance artist Rene Aquitania giving away his gigantic plastic canvases to dazed survivors of the big earthquake in 1990 so they could use them as sheltering see-through "tents." Of Robert Villanueva assembling his startling installation maze at the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Of filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik and his "Mababangong Bangungot" and how we planted pine tree saplings at the spot where the kiosk once stood on top of Wright Park. Of Ballet Philippines performing the "Igorot" suite during the Baguio Arts Festival. Of writer Chit Balmaceda-Gutierrez shivering with us at Camp John Hay with dear, dear Marian Catedral. Of flirtation walk and kissing rock and boxes of dried mangoes sent via LBC.

One needs a vantage point with which to allow art to breathe, to grow, to become. In one way or another, Tam-awan is such a lookout point

"This has been a long-time dream," Bencab explained Tam-awan to us during our next visit, when we caught him there facilitating sessions for teachers from the Philippine High School for the Arts. "And here, now, we live that dream."

E-mail the author at mozpas@yahoo.com

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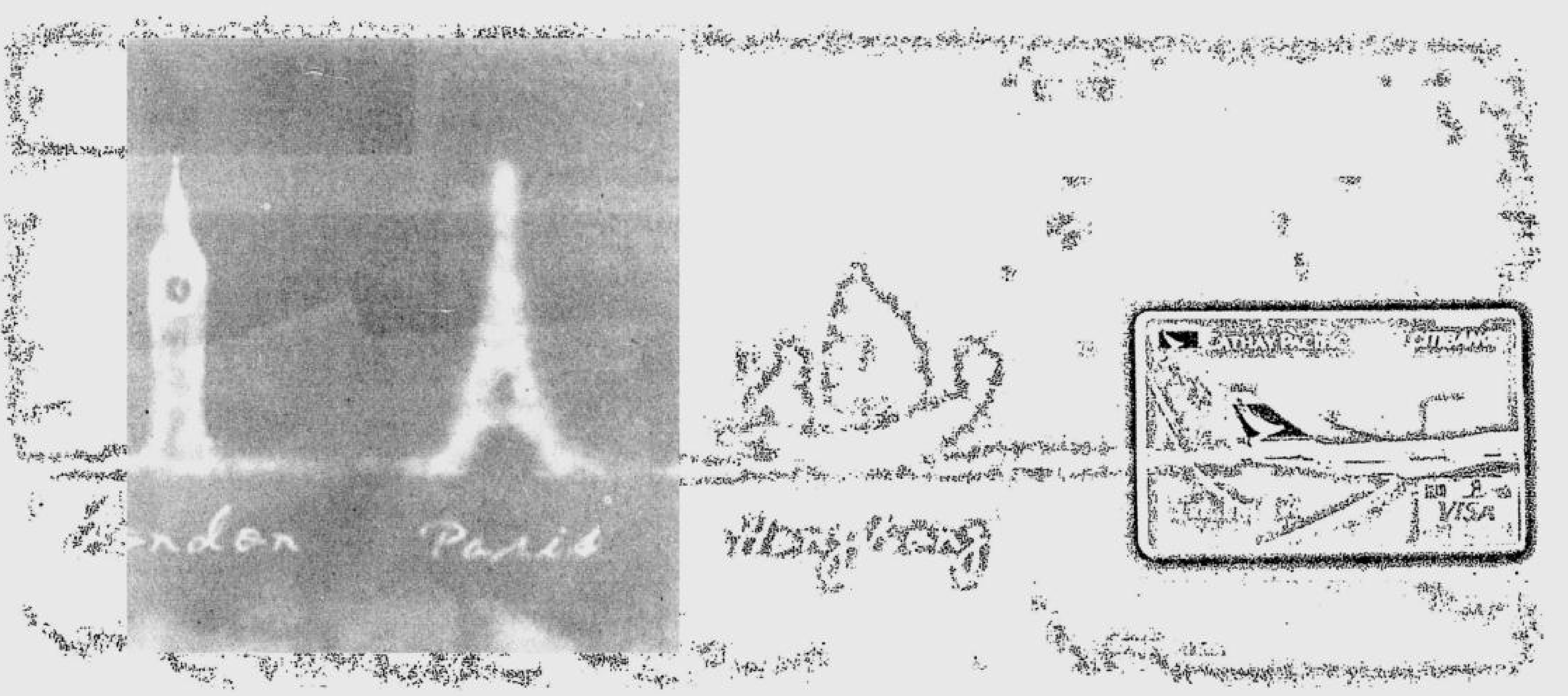

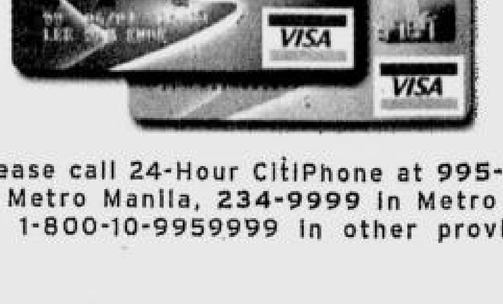

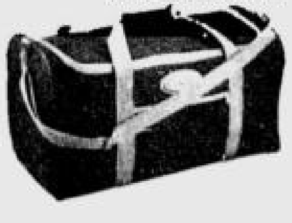

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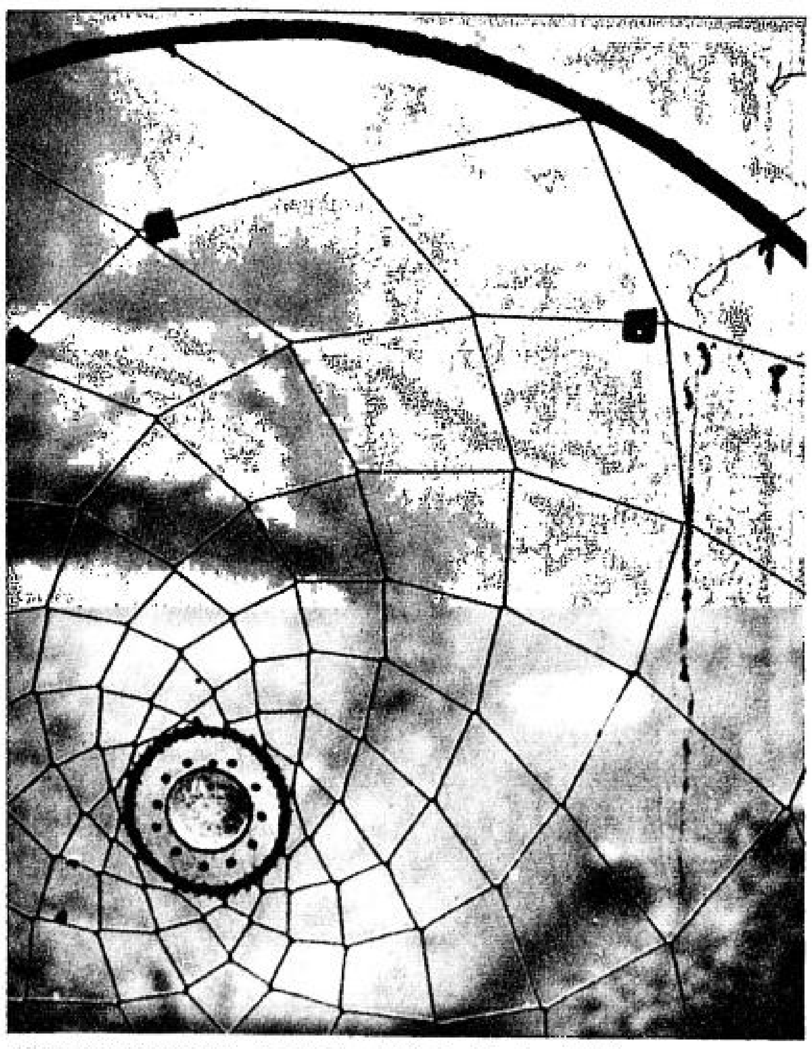


WEB OF DREAMS. John Frank Sabado's installation

Maze of installations at Tam-awan Village

BY MOZART A.T. PASTRANO
PHOTOS BY MIKE ALQUINTO

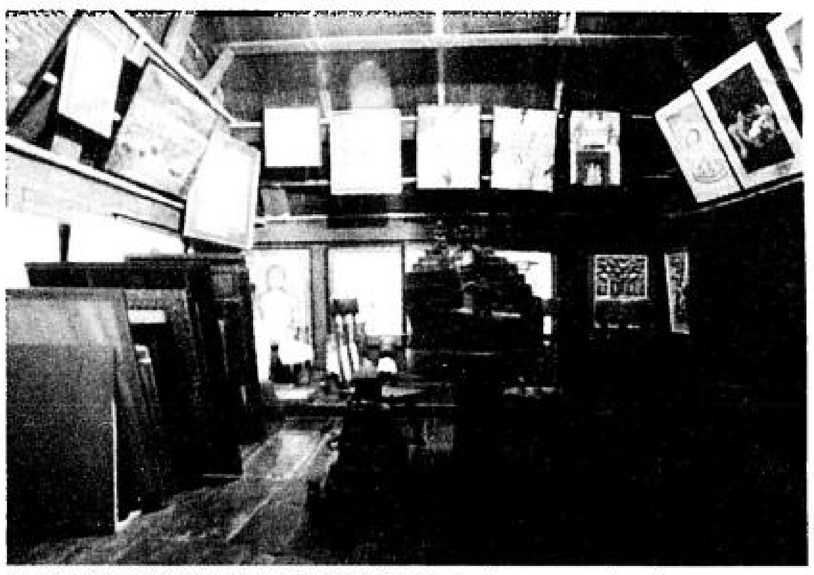
ITS name means "lookout point." And it is, in more ways than one.

Tam-awan, an artists' village put up by everyone's favorite artist Ben Cabrera (Bencab to many) in the outskirts of Baguio City, provides a vantage point where you may view and embrace the artistic temperament of the mountain hideaway

There seems to be various ways to get there as there are winding roads in Baguio, but the idea is to traverse the alternative road going to La Trinidad Valley, the route which offers breathtaking mountain slopes and ravines, and not the citifie highway proper which jeepneys tak Some 15 minutes from the city prope just as the road swerves into a sweepin "U" bend, there you'll find Tam-awa There's a signage and bamboo steps th lead you up the village.

It's basically hilly terrain dotte with traditional huts. At the first land ing is the coffee shop, which also serv as the main office, the kitchen, the di ing room and gift shop. Beside it is th art gallery, an intimate space whic you may enter as long as you leav your footwear outside the door. Belo the gallery is a working room where espied what looked like a computer, a

MAZE/ p.D7



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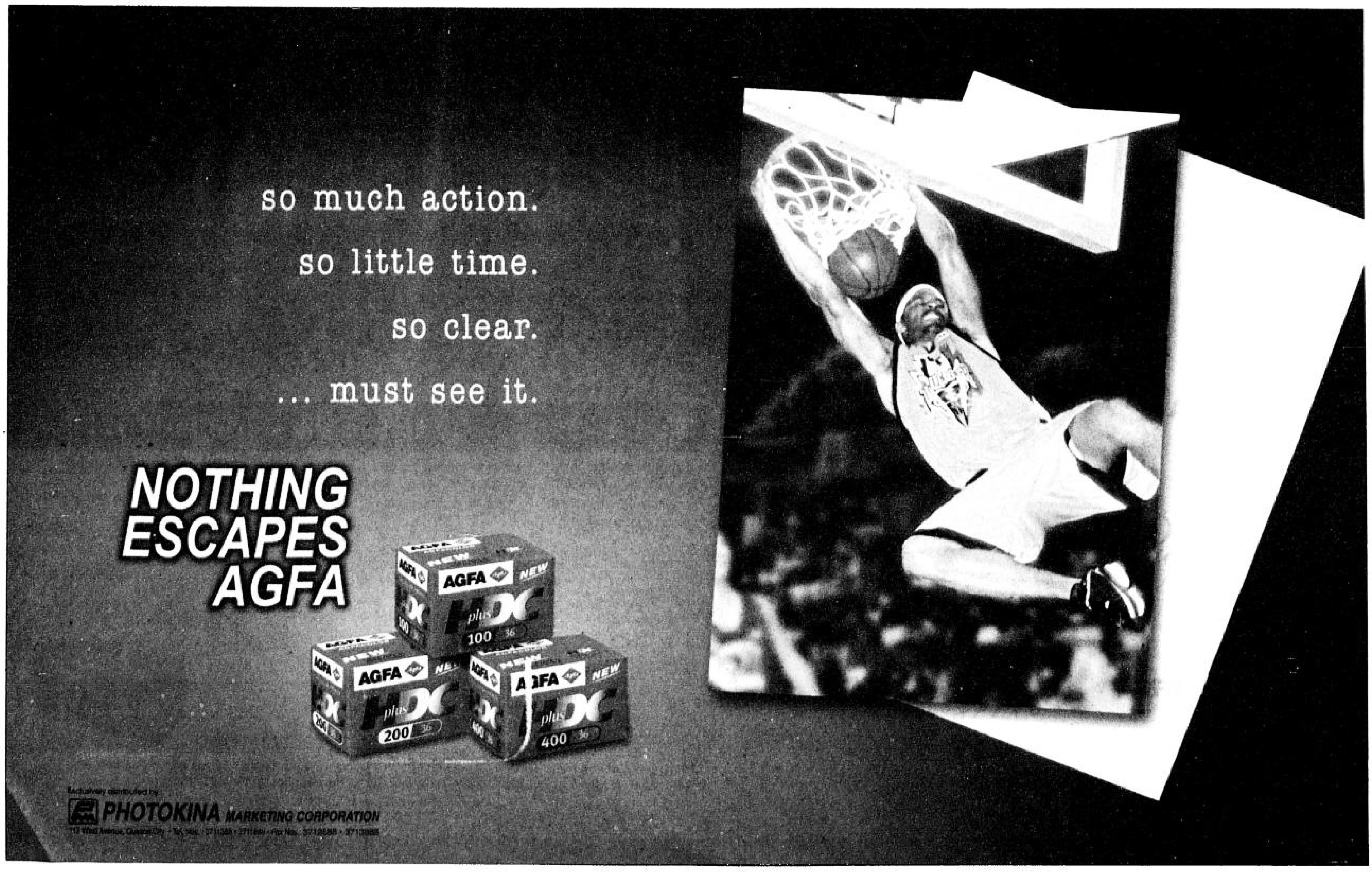

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Not another typical foreign transplant

By Cora Llamas

BANAUE Miclat

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And lest the title "Bliss" entertain thoughts of happy escapades played to swirling romantic melodies, one Edinburgh review described the six to eight songs as a mirror of "tortured passion."

Expect a different kind of British musical

NOT/ p.E2

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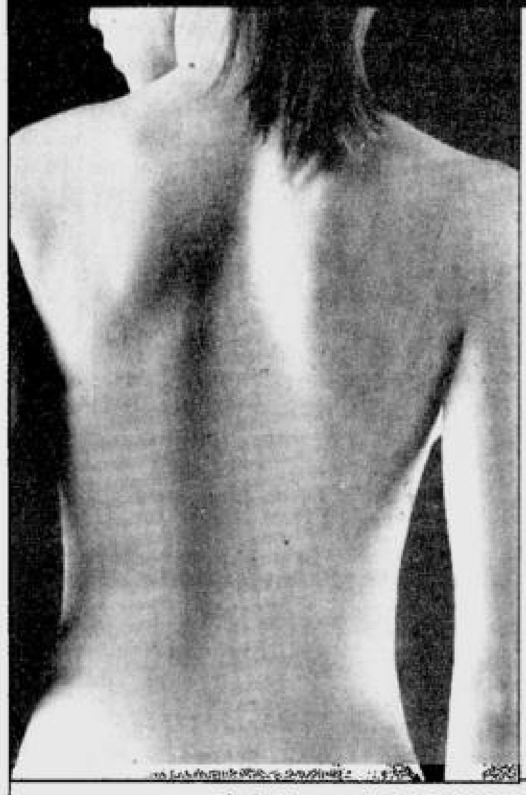

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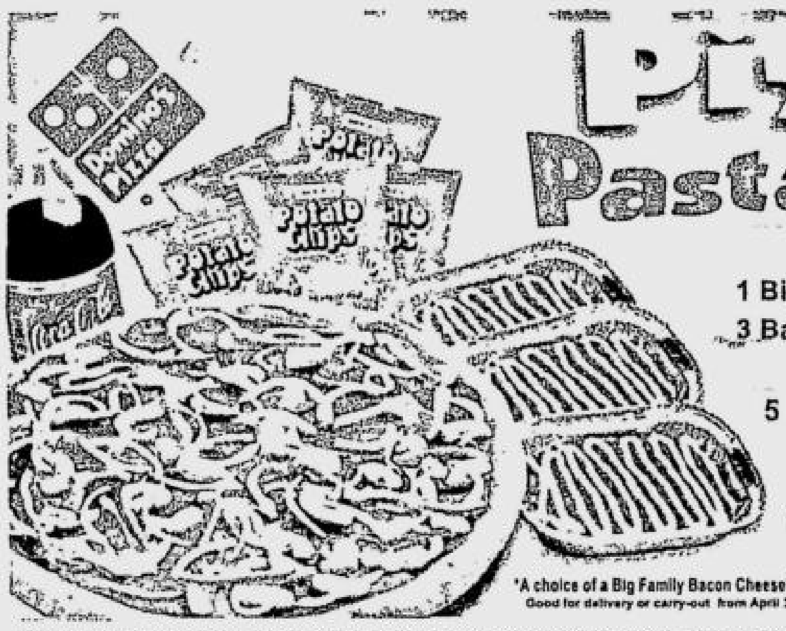

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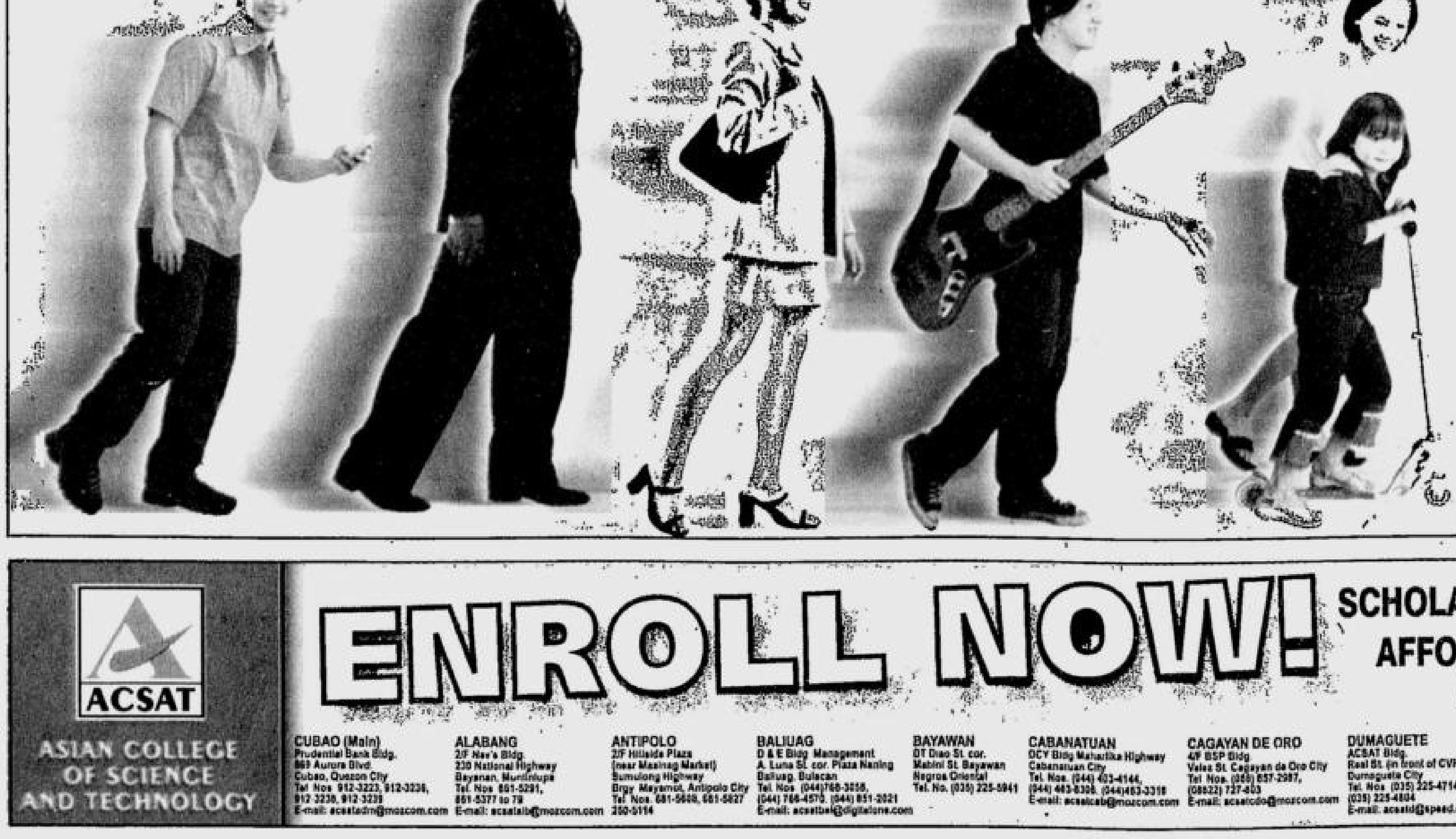

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Not another typical foreign transplant

(From page E1)

theater from the British Council this September at the Music Museum. Director Mike Friend, who flew in to hold closed-door auditions, wouldn't have it any other way.

Great story

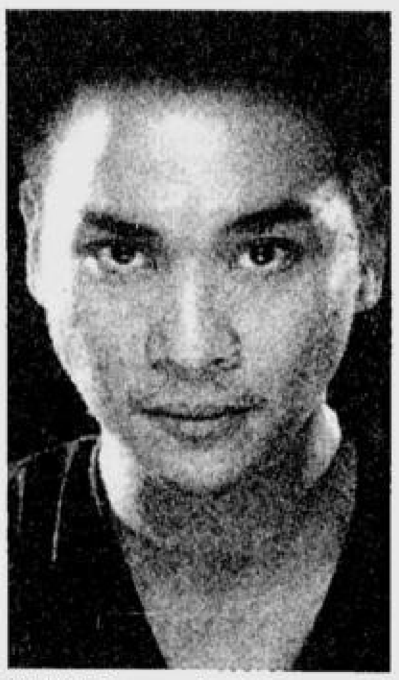
"Great musicals like 'Les Misérables,' which came from a Victor Hugo novel, come from a great story," he said at a press conference recently. "[What] depressed me about London is that [it's become a matter of] who can spend the most money on the most fantastic set and lights. It's turned into a machine. [Many of the musicals] have forgotten about the actor, the story and what people really want: That you want to be touched by the musical and [have it] relate to your soul."

Friend, currently director of Performing Arts at Britain's Hurtwood Theater, has worked in major productions like "Saturday Night Fever" and "Jesus Christ Superstar in Concert." His concern for the actor springs from the fact that he's also one: Laertes in "Hamlet," Macheath in "The Threepenny Opera" and Riff in "West Side Story."

His latest project, "Bliss," written by Andy Duerden and Paul Sellar, was staged for the out-of-the-box Fringe showcase at the Edinburgh International Festival last year. PR consultant Toots Tolentino, who recently handled "Miss Saigon Manila," saw the show and enthusiastically recommended the production to the British Council. "It has everything that Filipinos love," he said.

BUTCH Montejo

ISSA Alfonso


NONIE Buencamino

The 10-minute video clip showed couple Jimmy and Maddy on a trip to their favorite love nest on the beach. But the proverbial summer sunset turns out to have dark clouds when the girl reveals she's pregnant—by her ex-boyfriend. Casting another dark shadow on this love affair is a mysterious Hitchhiker who just won't be shoved aside.

Forty-eight Filipino actors auditioned for the three parts. Most of them were experienced musical-theater performers from prominent productions like the Repertory Philippines repertoire, "Miss Saigon Manila" and the Singapore-based "Chang and Eng."

Phenomenal

"The talent here is phenomenal," the director said, "I loved their humility, that they came in very well prepared and that they didn't have too many egos. Ego destroys the theater world that I live in."

An unconventional play like "Bliss," however, resulted in an unconventional cast. Those who landed the parts were not the usual faces of Filipino-staged, Broadway-like, English-language musicals.

Well-known thespian Nonie Buencamino, who plays Jimmy, deserves his reputation as an all-around "actors' actor" for sheer versatility. He started his theater career in the thinking man's plays of the university-based Tanghalang Ateneo (TA) and CCP's resident theater company, Tanghalang Pilipino (TP).

Two neophytes, Banaue Miclat and Issa Alfonso, are vying for the role of Maddy.

Miclat, a UP Theater Arts graduate, is an accomplished ballerina who's a member of the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group. Last seen as part of the chorus in "firewater-woman," she has also performed for Peta, TP and Dulaang UP.

Alfonso is another TA alumnus. She was an ensemble member in Ricky Abad's GenX version of the Aurelio Tolentino classic "Kahapon, Ngayon, at Bukas" and Gregoria del Pilar in the rock musicale "Dalawang Bayani."

Rocker Butch Montejo is provocative as the sinister Hitchhiker. First discovered by composer Vehnee Saturno, he and his band Asciano Mixx now do the rounds of the music halls. Montejo also recorded the theme songs of "Gumising Ka, Maruja" and the telenovela "Ikaw Na, Sana."

Different auditions

Friend's auditions were more of a getting-to-know-you process that reveals what an actor can contribute, rather than a two-minute, hear-them-sing, see-them-dance casting call. There's a good reason: "Bliss" is not another foreign theatrical transplant. The director wants to make the play connect intensely and closely with the city or country where it's playing while remaining true to the original vision. The material and the parts are not carved in stone. In the Australian production, for example, an aborigine might play the Hitchhiker.

That means "certain changes, trying to move this very abstract, poetic script into your culture. It means studying the mythology and legends. I don't try to model a Filipino actor into becoming Welsh. But I could change the character to fit the actor in a certain way. [During the auditions], I just didn't want to be influenced by their résumés. I was looking at the talent and at the people I would be working with."

Friend is happy that "musical theater in London is returning the emphasis on the actor." He said that established famous directors are beginning to update traditional favorite musicals like "My Fair Lady" by placing them in more contemporary contexts.

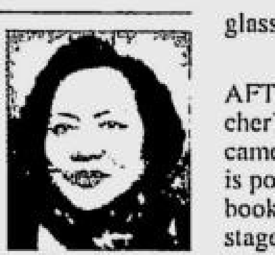
"Let's face it," he said earnestly, "musical theater is **not** believable; you just don't break out into song during dinner. In 'Bliss,' we're trying to make the music come out of the dialogue naturally and not just as another breakaway highlight—'Excuse me, ladies and gentlemen, here comes a song.' " Theater, after all, is not primarily a display of spectacle. "It's about the truth."

Call Susan Arcega at the British Council at 914-1011 to 14

San Isidro Labrador fiesta is a celebration of thanksgiving

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang



MY friend pointed out to me one day that of all the saints' fiestas, San Isidro Labrador's is the one that truly shows us how to celebrate with thanksgiving. San Isidro is the patron saint of good harvest, so the celebration of his feast day, especially in the town of Lucban, Quezon, brings us closer to the earth and all its fruits.

Although I've never been to Lucban during the fiesta on May 15, I heard every house was festooned with *kiping*, flowers, fruits and vegetables. Election or not the day before, I am sure many people drove up to Lucban the next day to partake of the bounty of the harvest and the food every family prepared for that day.

Angels do the planting

In the history of San Isidro Labrador, it is said that while he was at prayer in the middle of the day, the angels would do his work in the fields. His landlord saw this, so San Isidro was not fired from his job.

On his way to work, San Isidro would stop to feed the birds with his grain of corn. Although he puts out as much corn as possible, his sack weighed the same, as if nothing was taken out of it. The story of San Isidro, who is called St. Isidore in English, inspires us to be thankful for every little blessing that comes, especially during these times.

'Pahiyas' at Century Park

CENTURY Park Hotel has faithfully observed two weeks of thanksgiving in the month of May with food festival called "Pahiyas," which features Lucban cuisine plus the town's handicrafts.

Filemon Casilang, who organizes the event with the hotel management every year, is truly a devotee of San Isidro Labrador. Colorful *kiping* hung at the Café in the Park to welcome guests. The atmosphere was one of thankful celebration until May 18, last day of the foodfest.

More crafts to be thankful for

ACCENT store at the Glorietta 2 contains all the local crafts we can be proud of and be thankful for at the same time. Put up by friends Edith Oliveros, Angie Salazar and the late Rory Guina 27 years ago, Accent is a delight because it features little things one can use for the house. Crafts from Abra come from the bamboo forest of Medy Araneta Singh. Bags, fans, candles are welcome finds when one is feeling a little letdown.

Offering first nine days of the month

ROSAMY Lim wants to share this ritual of hers that has made her feel better and more spiritual. She offers the first nine days of the month to the Lord. She goes to Mass every day of those nine days. Of course, she tries to go to Mass every day, but offering the first nine days is very important to her. She says: "Things fall into place. Trials seem easier to overcome. I look at life now like a full glass, not anymore an empty glass."

Happiness is possible

AFTER READING Rosamunde Pilcher's latest novel, "Winter Solstice," I came to the conclusion that happiness is possible. Why? You have to read the book to find out. It tells of a retired stage actress who, at 62, leaves London and goes to live in a small village in Hampshire. How she finds happiness is the plot of the story. Available at National Bookstore.

Making do with what we have

ALMOST everybody agree we are living in difficult times, but in learning how to cope lies the solution before we go into despair. How to cope positively by making do with what we have is one answer.

I remember what Guia Imperial, a fellow writer, told me years ago. In Tondo, where she used to live when her husband Felix Imperial was still alive, the poor people make do from day to day. If there was one teaspoon of coffee to be used, then that was it. It is the reason, she said, there is a sachet for everything—coffee, cream, sugar, shampoo, toothpaste—because it costs less and is affordable at P2 each. This is the reason we thank the Lord for every blessing. God provides as we need it. "*Nakaraos tayo*" is what we say at the end of the day.

Elsie Gaches Village to be blessed

TWO pavilions of Elsie Gaches Village, Alabang will be blessed before the Mass on June 6, 3:30 p.m., by Cardinal Jaime Sin. Bishop Crisostomo Yalung will be cocelebrant in a Mass with His Eminence.

One pavilion is dedicated to Apostol and Sta. Teresa de Jesus, while San Ramon pavilion is named after the memory of Ramon P. Tambunting. Andres Lopez Liboro and Teresita Tambunting Liboro are the donors of the other pavilion.

Ecclesiastical archivists workshop

THE BOHOL Heritage Development Foundation and the Society of Ecclesiastical Archivists are holding a seminar workshop from May 21-24 at the Punta Villa Resort in Arevalo, Iloilo. The seminar focuses on diocesan and religious archives. Those who want to attend can call the Archdiocesan Archives of Manila at 522-8132 (Lea de la Paz); Bro. Roel Somogod, OP or Bro. Larry de Dios at 712-6275 or 734-7758.

By the way, those who want to research on ecclesiastical matters can go to Arzobispado de Manila on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Fr. Roy Rosales is the director of the Archdiocesan Archives of Manila.

SAN Isidro Labrador

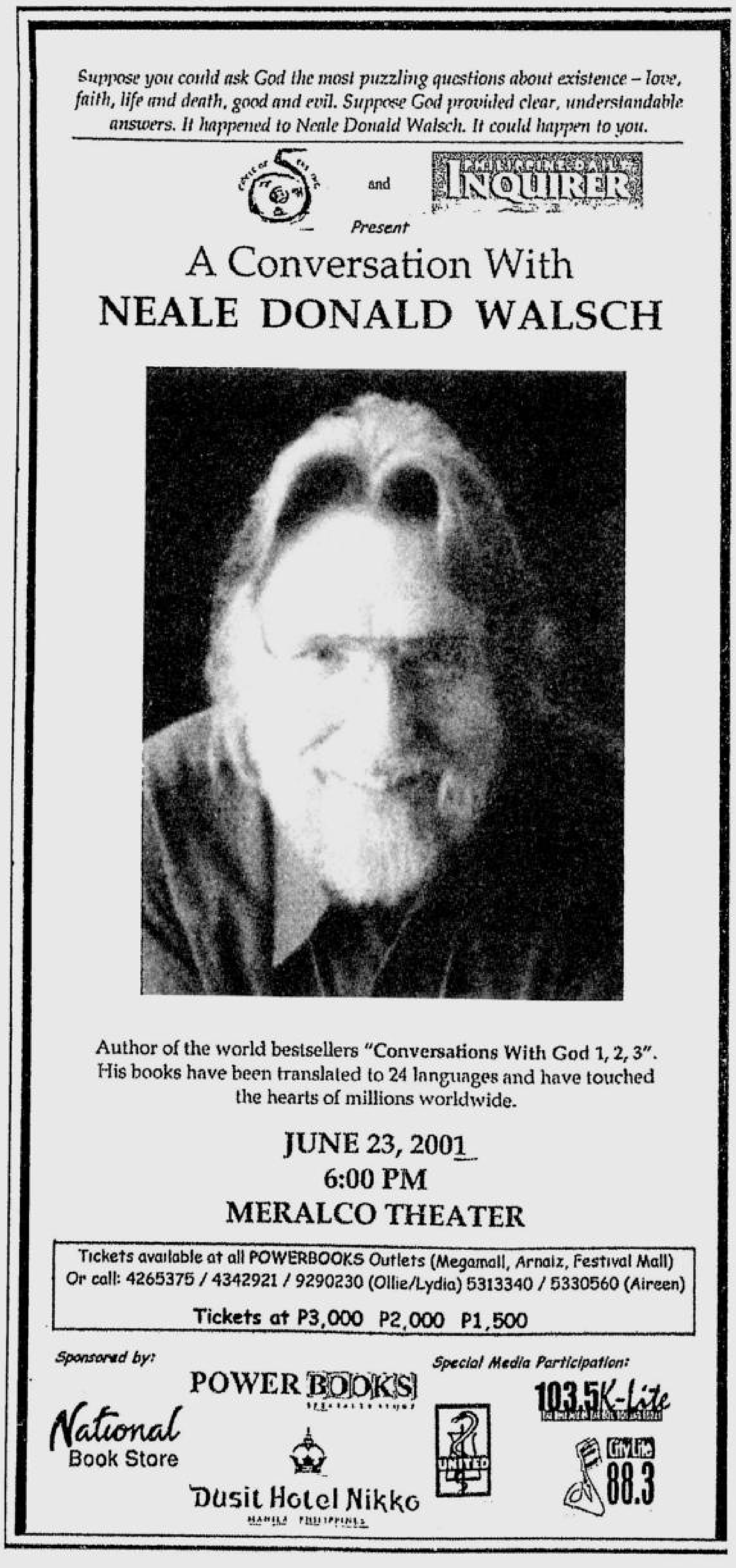
Blessed Virgin is expected to appear on May 27

ACCORDING to the members of the third order of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament religious group, the Blessed Virgin Mary is expected to appear on May 27, 3 a.m., at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Convent in Cuidad Real, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

This will be the third apparition of Our Lady. The first was on Dec. 2, 2000 at the San Beda College Adoration Chapel during a Rosary vigil of 226 diocesan priests. White roses were offered and they turned into hosts. The second apparition was on Feb. 11, 5:15 p.m., at the Cuidad Real campus on the *ipil-ipil* tree.

In both apparitions, the Blessed Virgin exhorted the people to pray the 15 mysteries of the Rosary daily and, if possible, the 2,000 Hail Mary's on the first Saturday of every month. The Blessed Virgin spoke through a visionary, Fr. Rommel San Agustin, a seminarian soon to become a priest. The Blessed Virgin said we should pray for the Holy Father. And she also said she loves the Philippines.

This is the month of the year when fashion designer Oskar Peralta prepares for the fiesta of Sta. Rita de Cascia on May 22. Since the late '70s, Oskar has been decorating the *carroza* of Sta. Rita for the procession and Mass at San Agustin. Devotees attend the celebration to receive roses as a blessing from the saint.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National folk dance meeting in Baguio

A NATIONAL Folk Dance Workshop for Teachers will be held from May 20-25 at the St. Louis University and University of Baguio, Baguio City. The project is a joint undertaking of the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Folk Dance Society (PFDS), DECS, Commission on Higher Education, St. Louis University and the University of Baguio.

The workshop, with "Power of Traditional Dance in Values Development" as its theme, will trace the history of Philippine dance. It will also consist of a review of fundamental dance steps and movements, interpretation of folk dance instruction, lectures and practicum, street dancing parades, as well as election of new leaders of PFDS. Cultural shows on Cordillera dances will be provided by the Kontad PCCA Performing Arts of Benguet State University and the St. Louis University Culture and Arts Dance Troupe. Also performing are the Quezon City Ballet of Shirley Halili-Cruz School of dance and the Likha Dance Troupe from San Francisco, United States.

Interested participants are advised to bring traditional costumes of their region to be used during the regional presentation and the street parade. Call the CCP Performing Arts Department at 832-1125 local 1602/03.

On and off Broadway

BY AUDIE GEMORA

OF STAGE

THESE are troubled times and yet I have noticed a lot of friends and acquaintances still traipse off to the United States for a vacation. I suppose they figure that at the rate local politics is taking its toll on our economy, it is better to go before the exchange rate gets any worse.

Being of the same mind, I took off for New York City and had myself a Great White Way Christmas. Hey, it was better than sitting through that farcical telenovela of an impeachment trial at the Senate and waiting for the peso to fall so far I would never be able to afford a Broadway ticket.

It was worth every devaluated peso I spent. And to prove it, here's a rundown of the on and off Broadway shows I caught. For those who intend to visit the Big Apple, this may just help you gauge which shows to spend your precious greenbacks on.

Hottest tickets

With "Miss Saigon" closing in January, the only long-running musicals left on the strip are "Rent," "Phantom of the Opera" and "Les Misérables." All are must-sees for those who haven't caught them yet. Word is the latter is waning in sales and may be axed soon, signaling the end of the Cameron Mackintosh era.

The new king of the mountain is undoubtedly Disney. It has taken over the once seedy 42nd Street with its animated hits turned into musicals, and with a wave of Tinkerbell's wand, magically turned the sleazy neighborhood into a squeaky-clean tourist belt.

"Beauty and the Beast," Disney's first Broadway offering, is now on its fourth year. "The Lion King" is booked all the way until 2002. The only way you may get a single ticket is at the cancellation line of the New Amsterdam Theater box office. However, those hoping to bring along the family ought to book way ahead of time. This can be done via Internet (ticketmaster.com or disneyonbroadway.com).

Disney's third offering is a deviation from its sure-fire animation feature to stage production formula. This time it looks to opera with "Aida," based on Puccini's classic tale about a Nubian princess enslaved by the Egyptians. It is a compelling love story for mature audiences. The production would have been perfect if not for Elton John's trite melodies (Disney should stop commissioning aging pop stars). Still, seeing the superb performance of Tony award-winning actress Heather Headley as Aida is worth every penny.

I hear Disney is fielding in "Pinocchio" and "The Little Mermaid" next.

Universal Studios' answer to Disney's Broadway onslaught is "Seussical—The Musical," a production based on the works of Dr. Seuss. The commissioned tandem of Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty ("Once on this Island" and "Ragtime") built their story around favorite Seuss characters Horton the Elephant, a featherless bird Gertrude McFuzz and Jojo, a little boy from the microscopic world of the Whosville with The Cat in the Hat as narrator.

Despite the endearing characters, catchy tunes and heartwarming message, box office receipts were low last winter, prompting actress Rosie O'Donnell to take on the Cat in the Hat role for a month as her way of helping "a show I really believe in." After her stint, the show's producers hired teenybopper idol Aaron Carter to star as Jojo.

Indeed, stakes are so high in the New York theater industry that producers resort to all sorts of schemes just to draw the crowds.

One such scheme is employing stars. It works most of the time, though it does backfire ever so often. I kept away from "Jekyll and Hyde" and "Annie Get Your Gun" because I just couldn't stand the prospect of watching David Hasslehoff and Cheryl Ladd in the title roles.

Here's a rundown of the shows you might want to spend your greenbacks on while visiting the Big Apple

Good ol' revivals banking on old-time hits is another ploy producers rely on. Thus there is a flurry of revivals, including "Follies" and "42nd Street;" a hilarious production of "Kiss Me Kate" (about the off and onstage love/hate relationship of two theater stars played with perfect comic timing by the winsome Brian Mitchell and Marin Mazzie); and a fresh yet still nostalgic restaging of "The Music Man" by multi-awarded director/choreographer Susan Stroman. She has come up with the most rousing finale I have ever seen in any musical—the whole cast becomes a marching band and plays "76 Trombones."

Sam Mendez's riveting staging of "Cabaret" transforms the legendary Studio 54 into a 1940s cabaret, complete with tables and chairs. More a play than a musical, it is stark and dark, devoid of Liza Minelli's and Joel Grey's definitive performances from the 1973 film. Sally Bowles is played by Katie Finneran who sings "Cabaret" stoically after having just aborted her baby, bringing the song newfound dramatic power. The only thing this show couldn't completely reinvent was Bob Fosse's indelible choreography.

Dance musicals, Fosse's legacy, is alive and well on Broadway as evidenced by the revival of "Chicago" and a high-stepping dance revue featuring his best works aptly called "Fosse," which won the 1999 Tony for best musical. The original Fosse choreography in both shows were reconstructed by Anne Reinking who, along with another Fosse stalwart Ben Vereen, star in the show named after their mentor.

Fosse, who died in 1987, was the first to create what the business now refers to as a dance musical. Dance musicals have dominated the recent seasons so much so that a controversy erupted when Susan Stroman's "Contact" ran away with the 2000 Tony award for best musical. A faction within the academy argued that technically it doesn't qualify as a musical because "Contact" has absolutely no singing and merely uses commercial recordings for background music. To resolve the raging controversy, the Tony's has opened a new category for dance musicals. Whatever has been said about it, "Contact" blew my mind. It is a series of playlets where actors break into dance instead of song.

Broadway has also looked to the cinema as a likely source for shows. I caught the tail end of "Saturday Night Fever," a staged rehash of the 1977 John Travolta starrer. Save for the engaging '70s music, fabulous choreography, strong dancers in the cast headed by the lithe Sean Palmer, the adaptation was disappointingly literal and unimaginative.

On the other hand, the zany antics born out of the cult film "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" seem even more fun—live and in the round. Seated arena style at the Circle in the Square Theater, the audience is transported to the bizarre lab of the Frank N' Furter where the "sweet transvestite from Transylvania" unveils his numbskull monster. A lot of interaction happens, with no less than talk-show host Dick Cavett acting as Narrator. The strong cast, which include Tom Hewitt (the original Scar in "Lion King") Daphne Rubin-Vega (the first Mimi of "Rent"), Jarrod Emick (Tony winner for "Damn Yankees") and Alice Ripley (original lead of "Side Show"), give the right tongue and cheeky performance that assures the house a wild good time.

"The Full Monty," based on the jolly British film about factory workers who put up an amateur strip show after being laid off work, gets my nod as the year's best musical. The writers reset the story in Ohio, developed endearingly down-to-earth characters and threw in some of the most refreshing tunes I've heard coming out of Broadway in a long time. The show is a riot. And I won't tell you if the guys really take it all off in the end.

Giving "The Full Monty" a run for its money is another film adaptation, Mel Brooke's "The Producers," starring Matthew Broderick and Nathan Lane. Critics have hailed it as the best book (good script) musical in years. "The Producers" is such a hit that tickets cost $100 a piece and tourists are actually buying scalper tickets at $300. Oddly, the show is about how a producer and his accountant manage to make it big by intentionally producing a flop.

Go off Broadway

But who says you have to put out so much money to have a good time? If you ask me, the more exciting and progressive shows are not on Broadway but off Broadway where theatergoers can have twice the entertainment for half the price.

I had the most amazing theatrical experience going to shows like "De La Guardia," "Stomp" and "Blue Man Group," all playing in small venues in the Lower Eastside. Notice that I said "going" and not "watching." These three shows are not musicals so much as they are performance art, a happening, an interactive experience. Between "De La Guardia's" wild water splashing, wall-scaling flying men and women to "Stomp's" heartpounding, feet-stomping, hand-clapping rhythms to "Blue Man's" outrageously funny mouth-splattering toilet-paper wrapping antics, you couldn't have a better time in the theater.

I wouldn't be surprised if these off Broadway shows outlive the ones on Broadway. Producers pump mega bucks into Broadway productions, forgetting that New York's longest-running musical, "The Fantastiks," has been playing out of the 100-seater Sullivan Street Playhouse in Greenwich Village with no more than a eight actors, a pianist, a harpist and a wooden platform for a set. It is now on its 40th year and when I watched it for the first time on New Year, it totally charmed me with its poetry and simplicity.

Finally, highly recommended by my New York-based friends is the newly premiered musical within a musical, "A Touch of Class," revolving around Edward Kleban, one of the creators of "A Chorus Line."

Considering the average Broadway fare is $45 (balcony), $90 (mezzanine) and $90 (orchestra), a Filipino tourist has to be ready to shell out at least P2,250 to get a seat. But don't panic. There are ways to get around these astronomical prices. Next week, a friend who lives in New York and whose passion it is to go to the theater will give tips on how to get bargains on and off Broadway.

'Dreamweaver' brings realism back home

IN THE SECOND of this season's Bankard Trilogy, Palanca award-winning playwright Rody C. Vera examines the barriers built by language, the same that create absurd imaginings about an impoverished society. Vera himself, together with Maribel Legarda, directs the play.

"Dreamweaver" will be staged at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, Podium 4, Condo Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Ave. corner Gil J. Puyat Ave., Makati, on May 25 and 26 with matinees at 3 p.m. on May 26 and 27. Admission is free to all Bankard cardholders, Bankard Airmiles members and teachers and students upon presentation of valid IDs. For noncardholders, tickets are available at P300 each. Call Bankard TicketCharge at 634-6644.

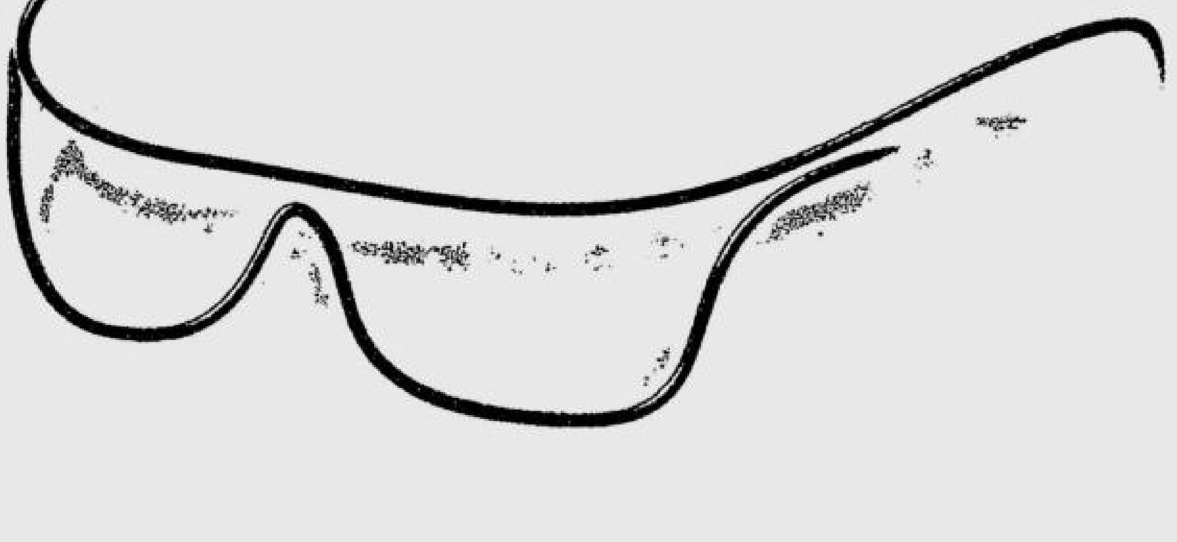
The second Filipino play to be staged in the series (the first one was Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino") "Dreamweaver" is the story of three friends and their daughters—Libay, Bon and Evelyn—who come from poor families in a small *hacienda* in the south. Being simple girls, they share their simple dreams. Reality turns out to be a lifelong struggle, forcing them to make difficult decisions.

Plays, they say, should seek to entertain. Rody Vera takes us to a meaning of the word well beyond the legacies of Disney. "Dreamweaver" not just entertains, it opens our eyes to trivial, quite funny and ironically paradoxes in being a Filipino.

Rogelio Chua, artistic director for Bankard Trilogy 2001 and chief executive officer of Bankard, founded Bankard TicketCharge as a way to showcase the best of Filipino talent and bring international personalities to the Filipino audience. He believes Bankard has taken the first steps in promoting the local performing arts and elevating it to global standards, a demonstration of the firm's desire to give something of value and inspiration back to the community that supports it so faithfully.

After "Dreamweaver" and for its final play, Bankard will go back to the old masters as it presents William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," the classic bittersweet tragedy about young love. This Shakespeare classic will run from June 15, 16, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. with matinees on June 16, 17, 23 and 24 at 3 p.m.

Bankard Trilogy performances are open to cardmembers and noncardmembers alike. Entrance is free to all Bankard cardholders and Bankard Airmiles members, teachers and students upon presentation of valid IDs. Tickets are priced at P300 for non-Bankard cardholders.



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The painful fact is, if you're age 25 up, male, exposed to stress, harsh chemicals and unbalanced diet you are bound to lose hair. Anyone of these can trigger falling hair, which if not immediately arrested, can lead to irreversible stage of baldness. In fact due to the prevalence of baldness, many so-called remedies have come out in the market claiming wonders and magic to bring back your hair. Unfortunately most of them just don't work. They can also cause harmful side effects.

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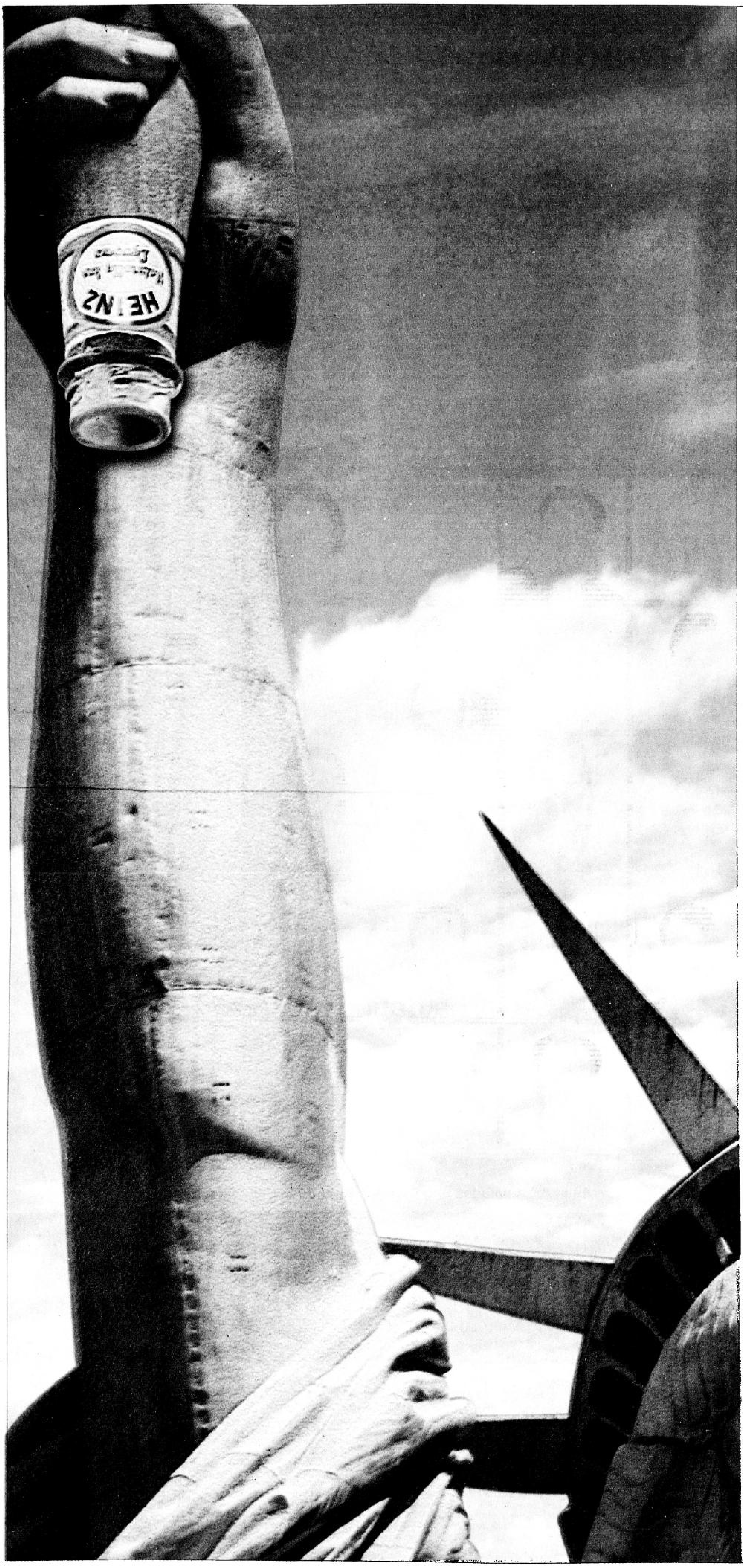

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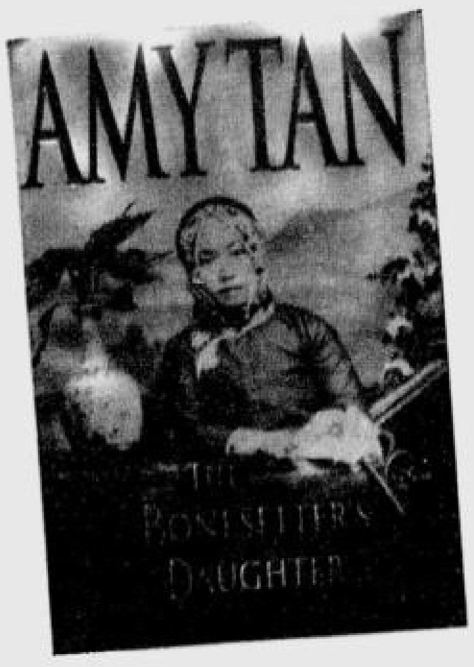
Amy Tan's beautiful 'Daughter'

Bittersweet and beguiling, this new novel from the author of 'The Joy Luck Club' mines both fictional and personal territory



The Bonesetter's Daughter
by Amy Tan
G.P. Putnam's Sons,
New York
2001, 353 pages

BY RUEL S. DE VERA

"THESE are the things I know are true." Thus begins "The Bonesetter's Daughter," the fourth novel from Amy

REVIEW

Tan, a delicious if familiar literary confection from the author of "The Joy Luck Club." Having conjured graceful, heart-wrenching novels about Chinese-Americans and their past, Tan's writing is often both modern and magical, and "The Bonesetter's Daughter" is no exception.

What lifts "Daughter" apart from her last books (the rather derivative pair of "The Kitchen God's Wife" and "The Hundred Secret Senses") is that this book possesses a fresh purpose that equals the craftsmanship of "The Joy Luck Club" even as it basically walks down the same path. There is a secret intensity to "Daughter," as if Tan herself has found something new in doing something old and familiar.

"Daughter" is a two-pronged search for the truth in the past as trod by a mother, LuLing Liu Young, and her daughter, Ruth Luyi Young. LuLing escaped China, while Ruth is trying to survive America. Beyond cultural differences, mother and daughter must also face a difference in the very way they live. It is this same gap, however, that will bring them together as Ruth discovers a sheaf of handwritten notes from her mother; thus she begins to find out who LuLing really is. And who Ruth is, as well.

Born into a relatively well-off family in China, LuLing recalls, in inspiring vividness, everyday life in their compound, down past Pig Head's Lane. Always by her side is the silent Bao Bomu, the nursemaid with the burned face and secret hand signals that only LuLing understood.

"No one understood Precious Auntie's kind of talk, so I had to say aloud what she meant," Tan wrote. "Not everything, though, not our secret stories. She often told me about her father, the Famous Bonesetter

AMY/ p.F4

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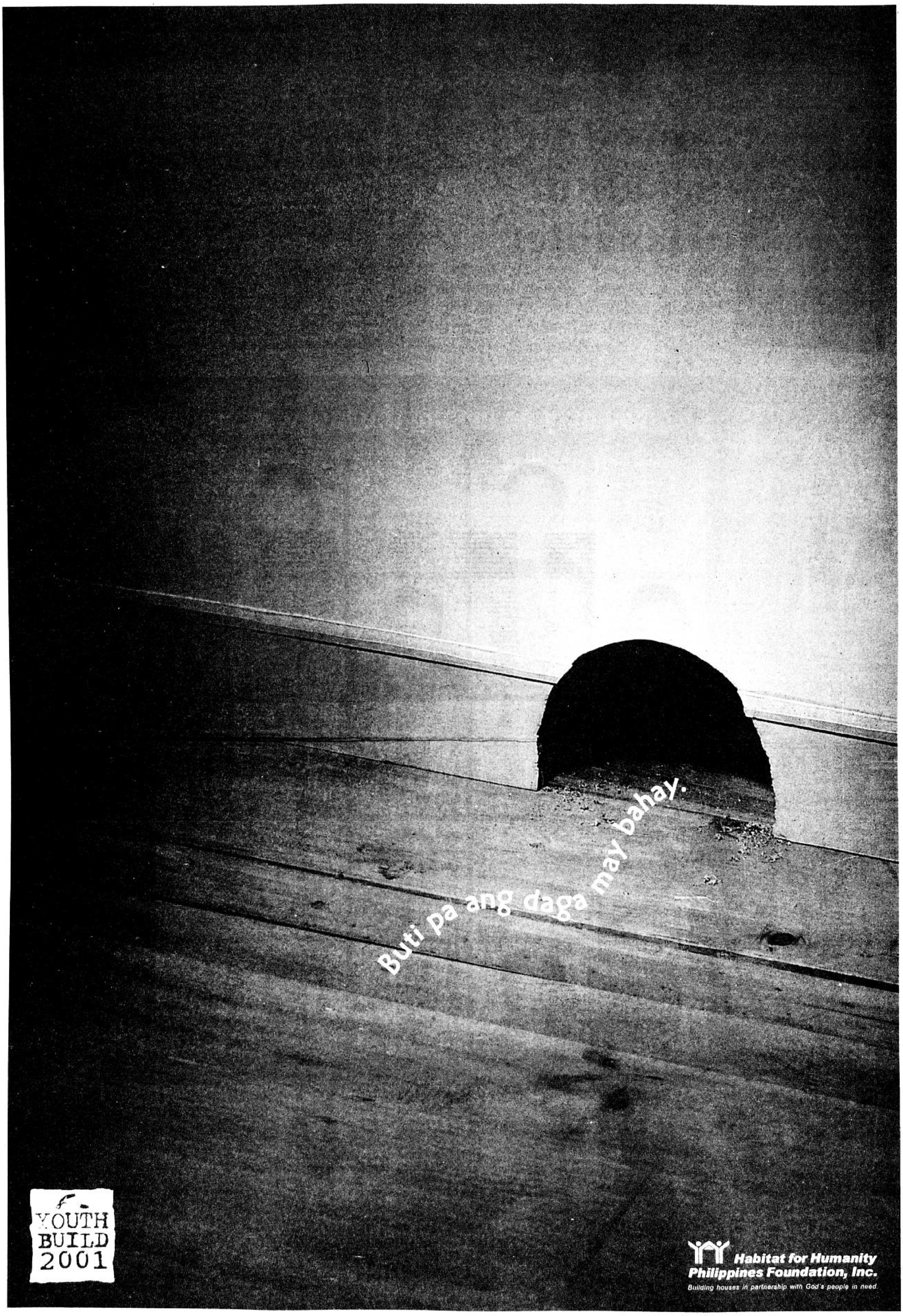
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PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Diplomatic row toasts the arts

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THELMA Gana, president of the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (formerly Friends of the Cultural Center of the Philippines), and **Fortune Ledesma** organized the annual cocktail musical at the home of founding chair, **Chito Madrigal Collantes**.

The show displayed the talents of the FCCP's young scholars. Guests listened delightedly to 11-year-old **Hannah Lynn Tan** playing Mozart and Chopin. They marveled at 10-year-old **Diomedes Sarraza**'s mastery of the violin and clapped enthusiastically for 12-year-old singer **Erik Joseph Rumar**'s rendition of "Holy City" and "Bituin Marikit." No doubt you will be hearing those names in the coming years.

Helping organize the affair were **Nene Leonor**, **Annabelle Adriano**, **Nena Casimiro**, **Pilie Aquino**, **Tesse Luz**, **Karen Macasaet**, **Chloe Periquet**, **Chit Gohu** and, of course, **Boysie Villavicencio**. The garden was ablaze with cultural luminaries such as **Chitang Nakpil**, **Jaime Laya** and **Danny Dolor**. Also there were members of the diplomatic circle, such as newly arrived Spanish Ambassador **Jose Rodriguez Pantoja**, German Ambassador and Mme. **Herbert Jess**, Mme. **Birgitta Rosting** of Denmark, who came with Mme. **Lena Hakanson** of Sweden, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lyman**, Peruvian Ambassador **Julio Velarde** and Japanese Ambassador and Mme. **Ara**.

* * *

Everyone is looking forward to this year's "Third French Spring in Manila" on May 29, which opens with a gala dinner. Watch out for the performance of Orchestre De Contrebasses at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Hotel and other fabulous festivities that last till June.

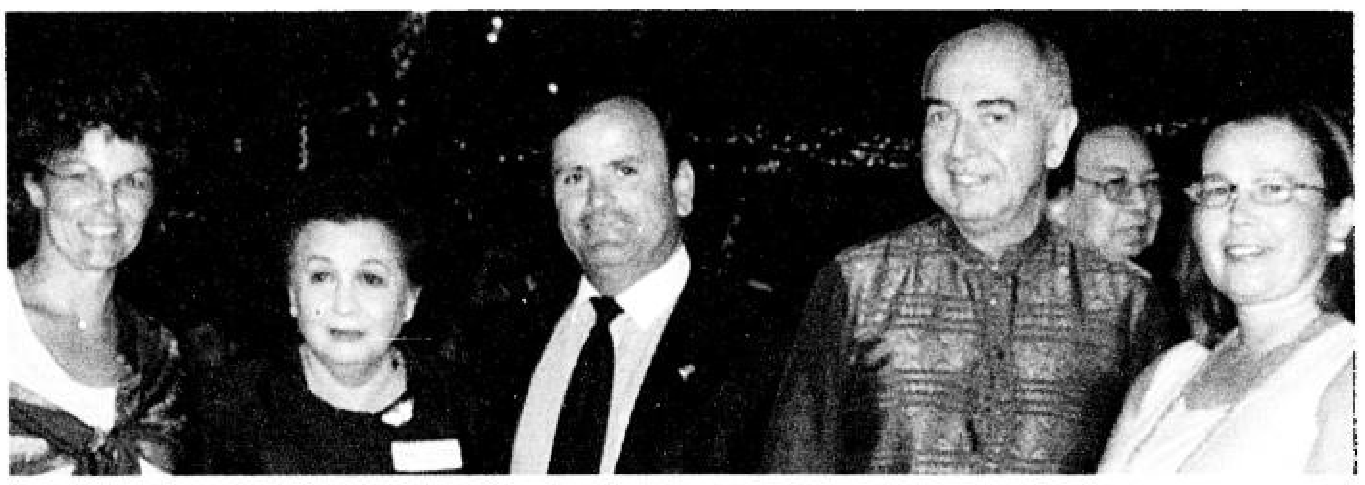
French Ambassador **Gilles Chouraqui**, in the meantime, hosted recently a dinner for artists and other friends. **Pitoy Moreno**, **Beth Day Romulo**, **Tessie Luz**, **Paz Yuchengco**, **Patrick Koenigswater**, **Evie** and **Alan Cosio** and others too cultured to mention made a beeline to congratulate **Frankie Sionil Jose**, our newest National Artists for Literature. Would you believe the usual suspects are crabbing about it?

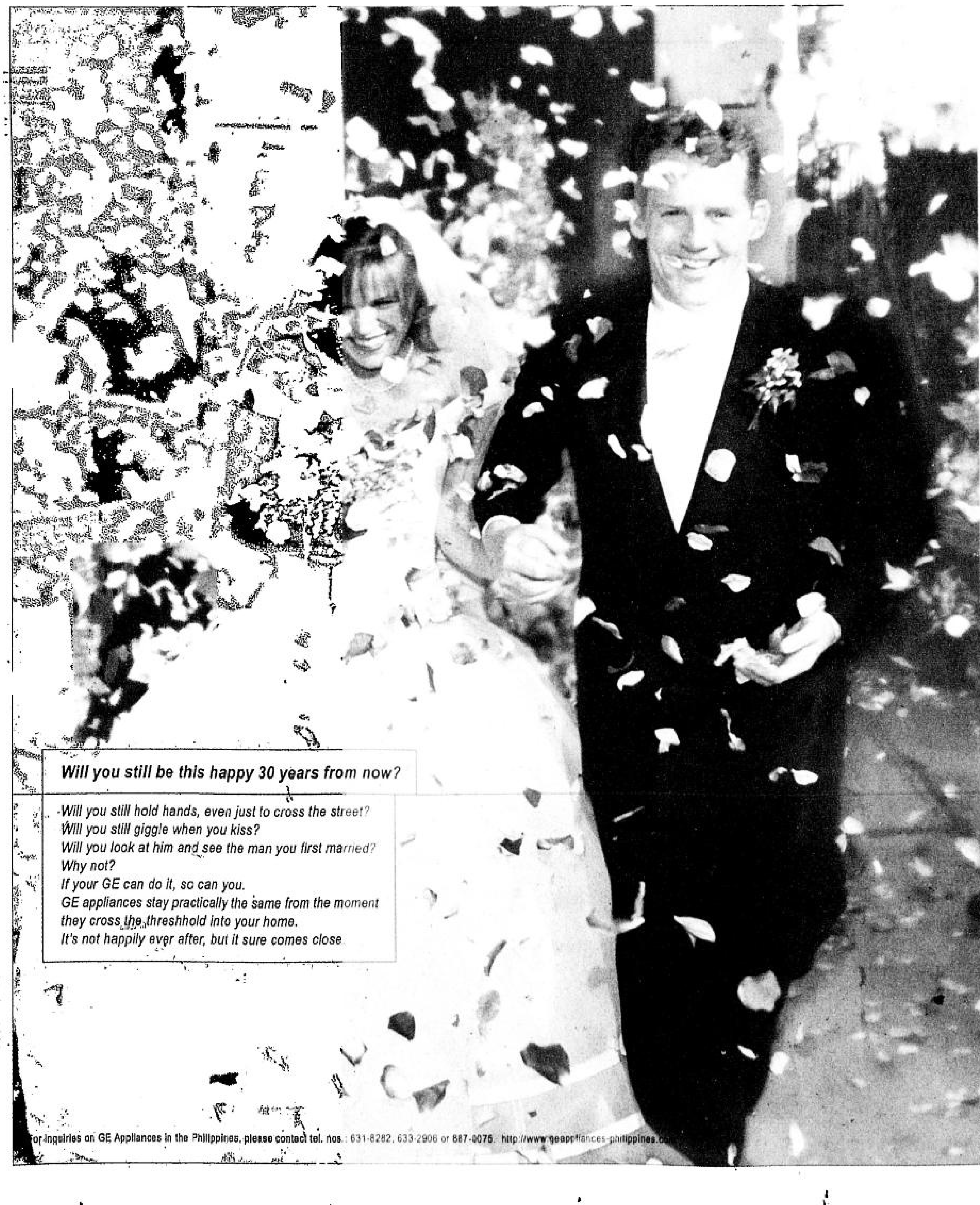
MINISTER Councellor Michael and Karen Milenovski

VIOLINIST Diomedes Sarraza Jr. and Chito Madrigal Collantes

PIANIST Hannah Lynn Tan

CARMEN Nakpil, Fortune Ledesma and Chito Madrigal Collantes


PORTUGUESE Ambassador and Mme. Joao da Silva, Nena Casimiro, Brazilian Charge d' Affaires Carlos Carvalho and Chilian Ambassador Carmen Lyman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The promo is the extension of the very successful "Nokia 3210 Raffle Promo." Call Dottie Pineda at 631-8893 to 94.

Speech workshops set

THE MANILA Bay Toastmasters Club No. 1088-75, an affiliate of Toastmasters International, USA, will hold a series of Speechcraft workshops starting May 24, 6:30 p.m., at the Casino Español de Manila, No. 855 T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita.

The workshops will be held every Thursday, thereafter. Participants will learn various styles of speaking, how to deliver impromptu speeches, effective use of gestures, use of visual aids and how to listen and evaluate other people's speeches.

Call 780-9655 or 714-6650.

Amy Tan's beautiful 'Daughter'

(From page F1)

from the Mouth of the Mountain, about the cave where they found dragon bones, how the bones were divine and could cure any pain, except a grieving heart." A bonesetter is an old Chinese healing profession, and it is LuLing's link to it that helps brew this novel's mix.

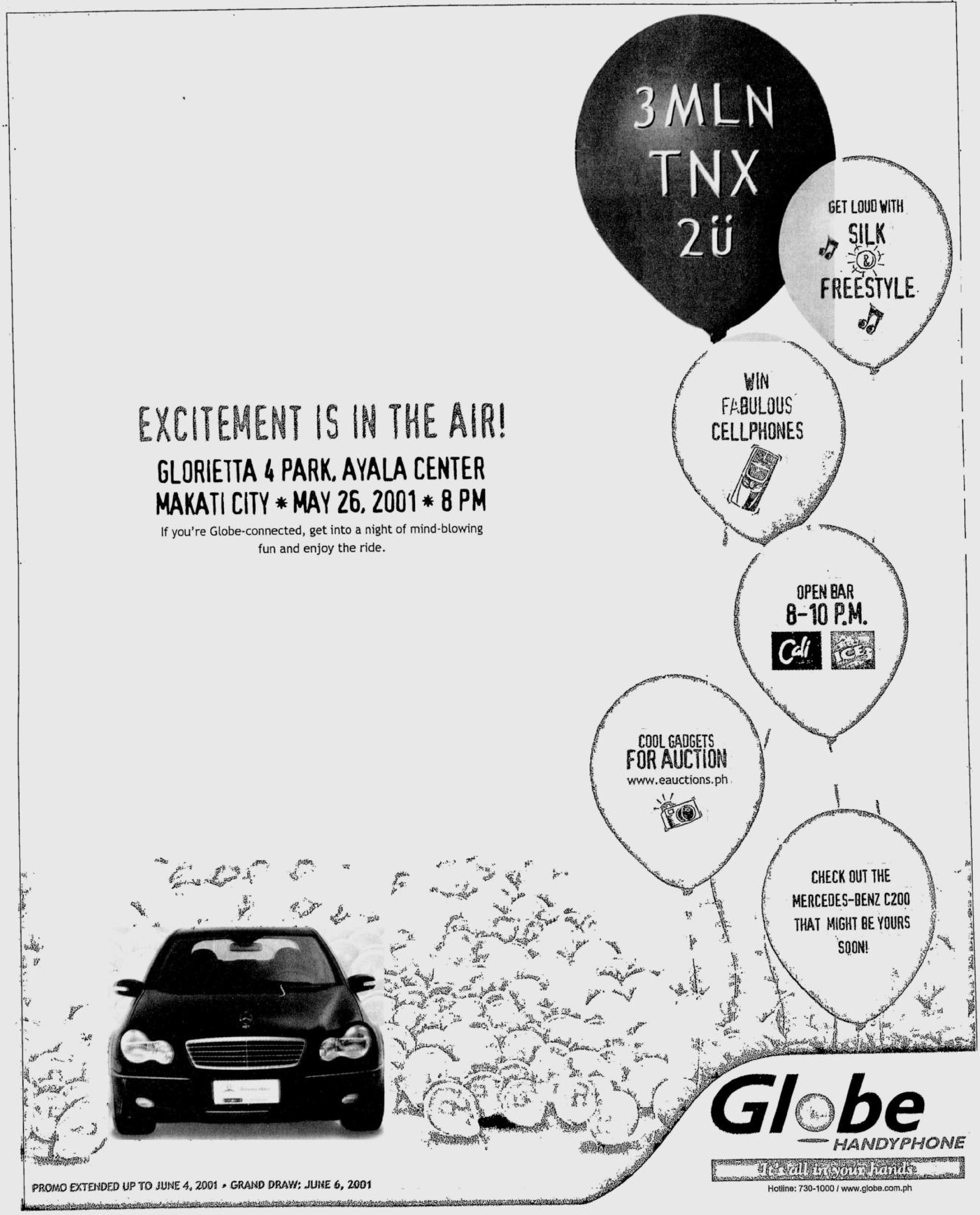
Tan's lovely, poetic sentences are back and it captures perfectly LuLing's (and later Ruth's) over her inability to remember LuLing's mother's real name. "Did I lose it because I kept it a secret too long," LuLing writes. This search for a real name becomes a discovery of two pasts, intertwined by a tragedy behind masks and a truth beyond borders.

Readers will be gripped by wonder over LuLing's life and times in China, by pity over the tragic turns she goes through, and by puzzlement over the seeming gaps in LuLing's own memory. Similarly, readers will find engrossing Ruth's hunt for identity in America as well as her newfound fascination over her mother's true history. As Tan says of Ruth's observation that "to her mother, just about anything was a sign of ghosts."

The novel boasts of an intricate yet balanced structure that recalls "The Joy Luck Club" but also carries a slightly less complicated conclusion. Fans of Tan's work will find similarities between "Daughter" and her previous books, but "Daughter" holds a special significance for Tan. She has clearly taken elements from her own history (and those of her mother and grandmother) and used them in "Daughter." That she bequeaths a real name to the plot (check the dedication after finishing the book) and that the likeness of her actual grandmother adorns the book's cover attests to this book's personal importance.

There is a hidden majesty to the old ties that Tan unearths in "Daughter," a bittersweet delight in the revelations buried in a homeland left behind. Some writers like doing different things. Other writers do one thing well. Tan does this one thing with an enchanting efficacy, and "The Bonesetter's Daughter" is prime proof of that. The book's sentimental spell pulls even the most jaded reader into a new realm of reflection. Maybe it is the author's sweet language, or simply that the novel evokes a need to find something long-lost, even if we were unaware of that very need. For the reader will know exactly what Amy Tan meant when she wrote this lovely, poignant passage: "I read that only after she died. Yet I have a memory of her telling me with her hands, I can see her saying this with her eyes. When it is dark, she says this to me in a clear voice I have never heard. She speaks to me in the language of shooting stars."

Available in hardcover at National Bookstore and Powerbooks.



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INFOTECH

LEO MAGNO, Editor

The long march toward computerizing Philippine elections

BY LEO MAGNO

AFTER THE Y2K bug and the "Iloveyou" virus, one wouldn't be surprised why some Filipinos would look at file attachments, new software programs and yes, even entire computer systems, with distrust. And, for events as sensitive (and at times festive) as the elections, two views always materialize when one talks about automating the electoral process.

The first view is that of the over-optimistic, one which comes from the eyes of people who believe that technology is a panacea, a cure-all for the diseases of the electoral process and a janitor for all the political trash associated with the elections. Such a view comes from the technology salesmen, contractors and the political clowns who hope to jump onto the grandstand when the festivites of the elections begin.

The second view is that of the paranoid technophobe. This comes from the eyes of those who stored cans of Campbell's soup in their basement during the Y2K rollover date, the same people who believe that point-shaving (*dagdag-bawas*) will become more rampant when the elections are computerized. After all, hackers can penetrate the Pentagon, right? Who knows? Maybe they can fry your microwave at home in Quezon City even though these hackers are halfway around the world in San Francisco. These are the same people who believe that a calculator can be used as a weapon of mass destruction once combined with plastique and a timing mechanism like a wristwatch.

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MAY 14, 2001

Unfortunately, in reality technology cannot act as an electoral panacea. It simply has too many diseases which cannot be cured even by the Greek goddess from which the word came. There are simply too many human factors involved, and this factor is something beyond automation.

Consider, for example, the fiasco which occurred at the network operations center of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections at the gymnasium of the La Salle Grenhills in San Juan. The infamous tally No. 8 of Namfrel, released in the afternoon of May 16, turned out to be erroneous. Namfrel officials in charge of the computerization effort are quick to blame the servers' lack of memory for the glitch.

But let's be specific here. When you cite "lack of memory" as a problem, does this mean the server had insuffcent RAM or does it mean that the human operators simply forgot to press Control + Save?

The Namfrel servers are mere donated

THE LONG/ p.G2

Namfrel system suffers amnesia, but still performed better than previous tallies

BY GERRY PLAZA

THE COMPUTERIZED quick count system of the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections performed better this year than in previous quick counts, despite a momentary glitch on Wednesday that slowed the release of tallies for the national and party-list elections. This is according to Namfrel systems committee chair Gus Lagman.

The glitch, which Lagman says was a memory problem which arose from the loss in random access memory of the quick count group's two IBM Netfinity servers, caused the slow processing of election results from Namfrel's regional and local chapters, which resulted in fewer tally reports and conflicting vote counts. An increasing load of data from Namfrel's chapters overloaded the server's system memory causing the slowdown, according to Lagman.

Namfrel staff had to reboot the system several times, as the servers reportedly hung continuously as the deluge of election returns reached the quick count center. As a result, tally No. 8 which was distributed to the press at Namfrel at around 3 p.m. of Wednesday had to be discarded, and the media were advised to refer instead to the earlier tally, No. 7.

However, Lagman claimed the memory problem was addressed by dedicating servers to national and party-list tallies. Aside from this, the processing of election returns and the subsequent release of tallies ran smoothly.

"What we experienced was a slowdown, not a breakdown," said Lagman. "Without the glitch, we could have more frequent reports."

At present, Namfrel uses one Intel Pentium Xeon-based Netfinity server, with 256 MB of RAM for the national tally while another server with 512 MB of RAM is being used for the party-list count. A Compaq ProLiant serves as a back-up unit.

Zip disks are being used for back-up copies of the submitted tallies to free up the server of extra storage and memory load for more efficient processing.

Only current tallies, Lagman said, are being stored.

Meanwhile, observers have noted that Namfrel should have

NAMFREL/ p.G2

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Technophobia in the 2001 polls

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

IT began as a joke.

"Calculators and electronic devices are not allowed in the canvassing hall," the sign said, as this reporter entered the second security checkpoint at the Philippine International Convention Center.

It was May 16, the first day of the national canvass of votes for senator and party-list candidates. I was tasked to cover this important event, and deliver blow-by-blow accounts on the biggest "fanfare" in the country: the 2001 Elections.

Since I was expected to deliver news as they happen, I brought along a laptop computer, tape recorder, mobile phone and a personal digital assistant.

Then the unexpected happened.

I had to go through at least four more "routine" security checks. They inspected all my things, inside and out. I was body-searched. I was asked to turn off my mobile phone, remove the back cover and the batteries, snap them back, and finally turn it back on.

And I thought that was it.

The security men and women asked me to call a certain number. Then I was given the nod.

"He could go," their eyes said, as if I was out to bomb the PICC.

During the first day, mobile phones were not allowed inside the hall. But not everyone was banned.

Lawyers representing some senatorial candidates were given the leeway to use their only means of communication to the outside world.

For the rest of the people inside the hall, all electronic devices were not allowed—even mere calculators and tape recorders.

Ironically, they did not bother to check my laptop.

The next day, I had to go through the same routine. This time, however, the men in uniform and guns were forewarned. Any electronic devices were to be ceased and held in protective custody.

Still, they did not mind me carrying the laptop—until that afternoon.

While I and other reporters were minding our own business, several security men clad in *barong* approached us and said we should stop working because our laptops posed a "clear and present" danger on the conduct of the national canvass.

"What?"

After taking away our mobile phones, tape recorders, two-way handheld radios, and even calculators, the security men were not content. They wanted our laptops!

We didn't budge. We argued that our laptops were our only lifeline to our offices.

They said they were just following orders. They insisted that we will be only allowed to use them the next day.

"What's the difference between today and tomorrow?" a reporter queried.

The head of the Commission on Elections' security then replied: "That's why they're called laptops. You use it on your own laps."

Argument ensued, until we just decided to walk out.

On the first day of the national canvass, Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo banned the

TECHNOPHOBIA/ p.G3

NOTEBOOK computers, cell phones, diskettes and compact disks are being inspected by the Philippine Marines tasked to inspect electronic devices going in and out of the PICC, site of the Comelec canvass. ERIK ARAZAS

The long . . .

(From page G1)

machines, and the ones in question which reportedly bogged down were an IBM Netfinity server and a Compaq machine. Being donated, one cannot wish for the beggar to become a chooser, but did anyone say that the specifications of these particular pieces of equipment were fit for such a project as handling a nationwide quick count? Surely IBM and Compaq weren't consulted on this one.

Lack of memory indeed. Somebody forgot to check if the machines can take the load.

On the other hand, this does not mean that Cassandras should sound the warning bell everytime they hear plans of computerizing the elections. After all, the automation of the elections is mandated by law, under Republic Act 8436 or the Election Automation Law which was passed in 1998. But this never became a reality, no thanks to in-fighting officials of the Commission on Elections.

The Comelec officials' penchant for throwing barbs at each other and their aversion to technology do not help the cause of having the electoral process automated. It was even reported that the media walked out of the Philippine International Convention Center on Thursday due to the tight security being imposed on them. The national canvassing of the Comelec is being conducted at the PICC, and reporters' cellular phones, notebook computers, personal digital assistants and other electronic devices which have become everyday tools for the mobile professional were subjected to scrutiny, much to the annoyance of the media. But then again, as earlier mentioned, even a calculator and a wristwatch can be converted into a time bomb.

But let's get real here. These everyday tools of the media and tight security against potential terrorists are the least of the Comelec's worries. The commission has already bungled the elections and the canvassing bad enough such that no bomb can equal the devastation they have wrought on the people.

The bottom line is: Computerizing the elections, and hopefully this would become a reality by 2004, is not going to be the biggest hurdle we have to surmount. It is the mind-set of the officials involved, the preconceived ideas they have about automation which get passed on to their employees in the rank-and-file level.

With such a mind-set in the upper echelons of government—or for any private organization, for that matter—one cannot hope to have any system, electoral or otherwise, reap the benefits of technology.

If, right from the start the human mind has foregone conclusions about technology, then the only output we would receive would be the same trash being fed into government agencies involved such as the Comelec.

This technophobic mind-set, should it be passed on to the next generation, could be of equal devastating magnitude to the possibility of having a whole new batch of ignorant actors and actresses running our government.

Namfrel . . .

(From page G1)

utilized a more efficient scheme in at least avoiding the glitch.

"The least Namfrel can do to allay further suspicions on its operations is to provide a signed document to the public, the specs (specifications of the servers) and how many clients and/or field offices they have that the three servers from IBM and Compaq found too daunting to handle," says an e-mailed statement from Mon Sagullo reaching the INQUIRER. Sagullo notes that Namfrel may have mishandled its quick count due to the glitch.

Namfrel was unable to acquire the needed RAM to strengthen the processing capabilities of its servers.

Lagman noted that Namfrel, being a volunteer and donations-based organization, could not afford to purchase such expensive system facilities. The Netfinity and ProLiant servers, together with the workstations used for the quick count were donated by companies Lagman heads, namely Systems Standards Inc. and Systems Technology Institute.

Lagman added, however, that their current configuration is working efficiently and provides up-to-date information on the latest tally when data from regional and local chapters become available.

"We would only depend on the amount of data coming in and not how we can process the data," Lagman stressed.

While claiming that Namfrel's computerized quick count was essentially a success, Lagman noted that the only way to improve the system in tallying election results is computerizing the Commission on Elections itself.

"We are the only group in the world that works hard for its obsolescence," Lagman said. "We want the Comelec to be computerized so that they won't need Namfrel anymore."

Lagman said the Comelec should have been computerized this year, if not for the electoral body's non-compliance of Republic Act 8436 or the Election Automation Law which was passed in 1998.

The Comelec had deferred action on the modernization effort, which included the automation of the consolidation, counting and deployment of election returns, due to the late release of congressional allotment for the project.

Lagman said that if the Comelec fulfills its duty to fully automate the electoral process, then the acquisition and deployment of election results from the different areas around the country would be faster and more efficient.

"Imagine, official results in just two days?" Lagman said.

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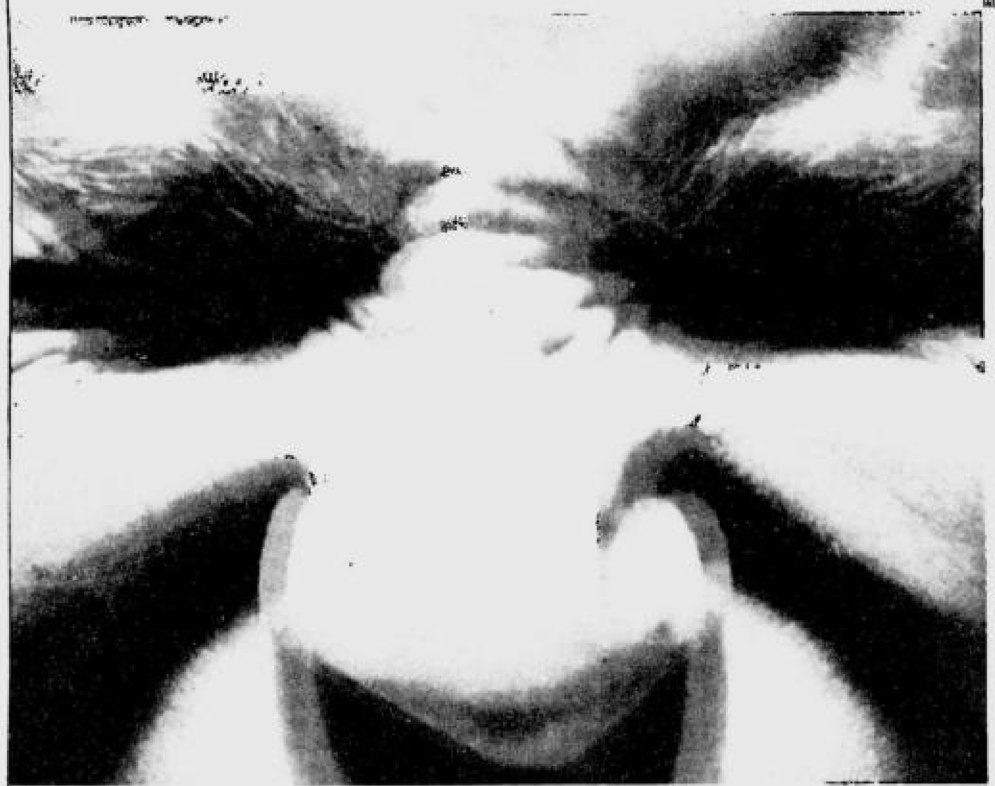

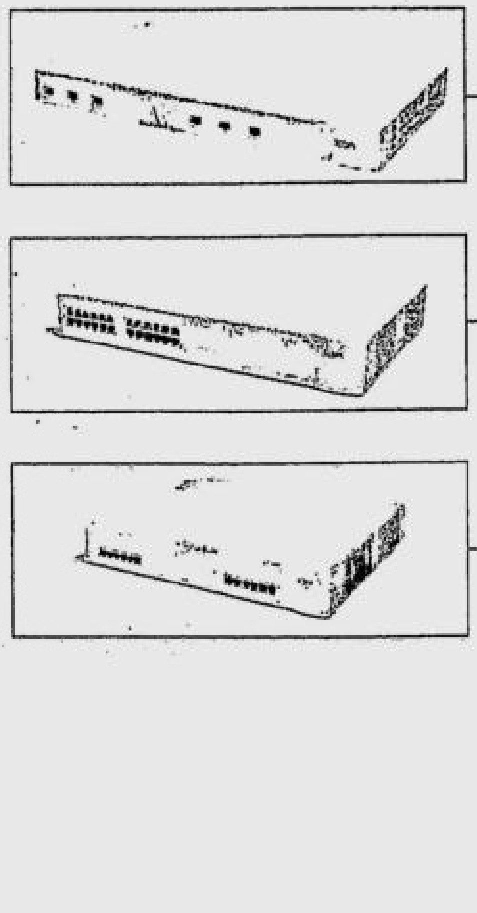

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Start-up finds good use for quick count software

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

POLISTRAT International Inc. has found good use for its homegrown software after the National Press Club (NPC) backed out of the quick count for the May 14 elections. The Filipino start-up was the technology partner of the local media organization for its plan to conduct a Web-based quick count.

The setback prompted the Filipino company to approach the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), which eventually decided to support the group.

"When the NPC backed out, *nabitin kami* (we were left hanging)," Jose Leviste Jr., chair of Polistrat told the INQUIRER.

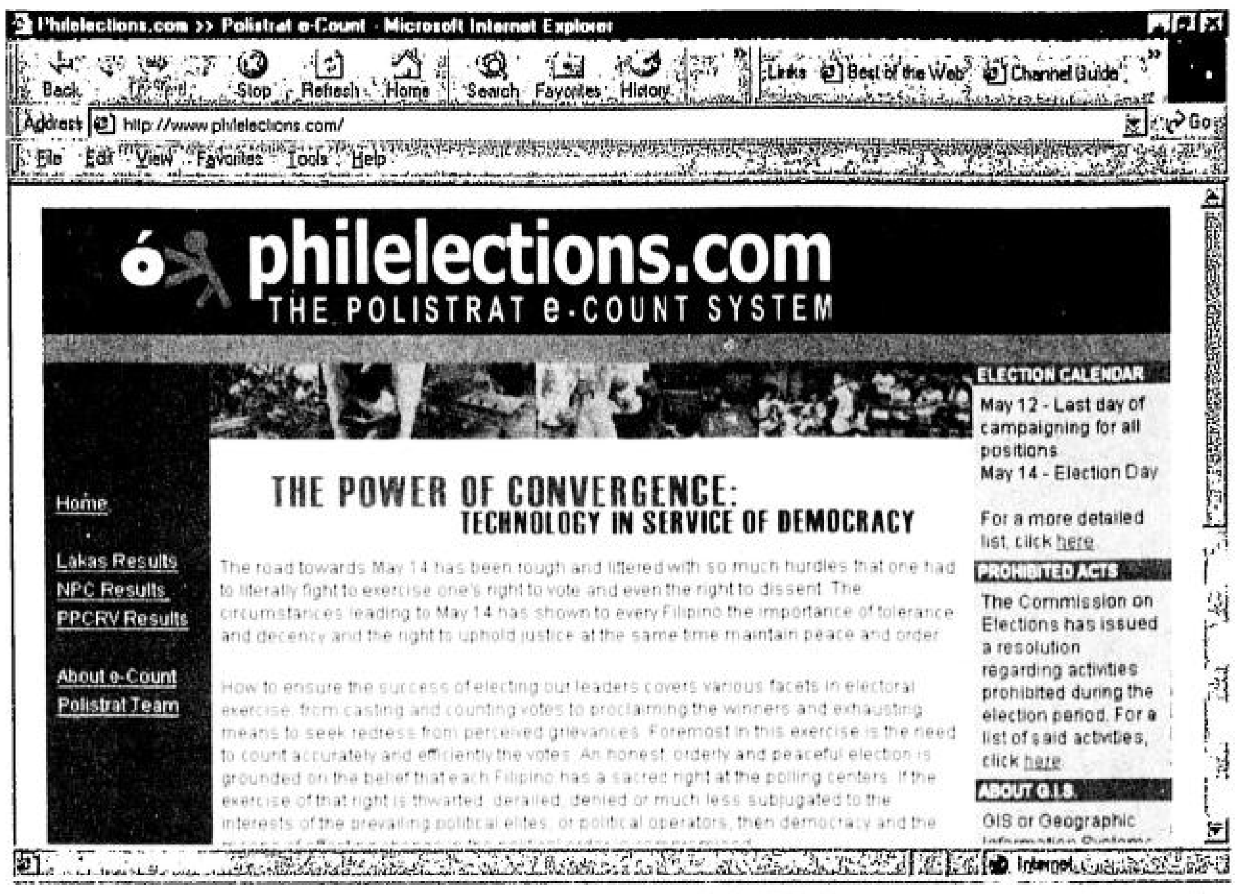
Polistrat has set up a website, www.philelections.com, which held an unofficial quick poll count for the first district of Makati, composed of 1,022 precincts.

The company is doing this in collaboration with the Mega Group of Computer companies, the Lakas-National Union of Christian Democrats, the Nationalist People's Coalition and AIM.

More than 20 computers have been installed at the AIM building in Makati for the Web-based quick count.

Leviste claimed that the AIM has invested about P200,000 in this project. Leviste said that 50 volunteers from the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting of the Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish and the San Agustin Seminary, the Christ the Living Stone Fellowship, and a nationwide cooperative of persons with disabilities have volunteered for Philelections.com's quick count.

"We intend to sell the software we have developed for elections to other Asian countries," Leviste said



Philelections.com >> Polistrat e-Count - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Address http://www.philelections.com/

philelections.com
THE POLISTRAT e-COUNT SYSTEM

Home
Lakas Results
NPC Results
PPCRV Results
About e-Count
Polistrat Team

THE POWER OF CONVERGENCE:
TECHNOLOGY IN SERVICE OF DEMOCRACY

The road towards May 14 has been tough and littered with so much hurdles that one had to literally fight to exercise one's right to vote and even the right to dissent. The circumstances leading to May 14 has shown to every Filipino the importance of tolerance and decency and the right to uphold justice at the same time maintain peace and order.

How to ensure the success of electing our leaders covers various facets in electoral exercise, from casting and counting votes to proclaiming the winners and exhausting means to seek redress from perceived grievances. Foremost in this exercise is the need to count accurately and efficiently the votes. An honest, orderly and peaceful election is grounded on the belief that each Filipino has a sacred right at the polling centers. If the exercise of that right is thwarted, derailed, denied or much less subjugated to the interests of the prevailing political elites, or political operators, then democracy and the

ELECTION CALENDAR
May 12 - Last day of campaigning for all positions
May 14 - Election Day
For a more detailed list, click here

PROHIBITED ACTS
The Commission on Elections has issued a resolution regarding activities prohibited during the election period. For a list of said activities, click here

ABOUT G.I.S.
GIS or Geographic

THE SOFTWARE intended for use for the abandoned media quick count of the National Press Club found a home in the Makati tally. The project is done in cooperation with the Asian Institute of Management.

Technophobia . . .

(From page G2)

use of mobile phones and two-way radios inside the canvassing hall for reasons of "peace and order."

Some lawyers complained, and were allowed to use their cellular phones in "silent mode."

He said the military was "adamant" about people bringing in mobile phones inside the hall because they were afraid it might be used to detonate a bomb. They were just following orders.

The media walkout, however, later "forced" the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which was hired by the Comelec to provide security at the PICC, to give in to their fears.

The way poll officials, their staff included, and military men react to technology reminds this reporter how people still cling to primitive ways to protect status quo.

The elections this year should have been high-tech. But politics, and the fear of high-tech shelved efforts that would have made the teachers, voters and even the poll officials' lives, easier.

National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections chair Jose Concepcion blamed Luzviminda Tancangco—head of the modernization committee of the Comelec and an appointee of former President Joseph Estrada—for the failure to computerize the 2001 elections.

Tancangco, however, blames the commission en banc who decided on shelving computerization projects on March this year.

Indeed, while we are living in Internet time, some still think at the speed of snail mail.

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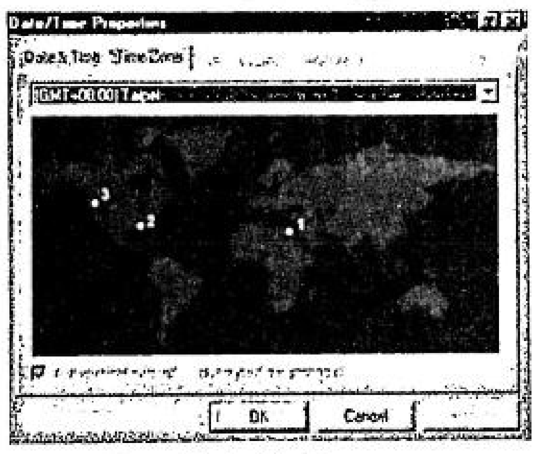
Despite glitch, Namfrel says it uses 'hack-proof' system

THE COMPUTER system being used by the poll watch body National Citizens' Movement of Free Elections (Namfrel) is "hack-proof," according to Namfrel secretary general Guillermo Luz.

Luz said that the system could not be accessed remotely since it is placed internally within the Namfrel's specially designed local area network. He added that the network cannot be accessed by the public and that special Internet servers ,are in place for the uploading of tally results via the Namfrel website at www.namfrel.org. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for computer hackers to illegally access the site, Luz claimed.

The computer glitch which hit the Namfrel system last week, however, is an siolated case and is in no way connected to any hacker activity, according to Namfrel systems committee chair Gus Lagman. The glitch is claimed to have been caused by a "memory problem" in some of the servers used in the internal network at La Salle.

Luz also said Namfrel is computerizing the "low-tech" elections, where a majority of the vote counting is done manually. He added that the Namfrel network center in La Salle Greenhills will be processing senatorial and party-list results once the certificates of canvass are given to Namfrel for the national quick count.



FIND an Easter Egg in Word

Windows 98 Easter egg

BY JERRY LIAO

THERE'S a hidden program within Microsoft Windows 98 which will display a nice "credits screen" complete with video and music. These hidden programs in any software are called "Easter eggs." Activate the Easter egg in Windows 98 by following these steps :

POWERTIPS

(1) Double-click on the clock (bottom right corner of your screen) to open the "Date/Time" properties dialogue box.

(2) Select the "Time Zone" tab.

(3) Hold down the "Ctrl" key, click and drag from Point 1 to Point 2. Release your mouse button and "Ctrl" key.

(4) Hold down the "Ctrl" key again, click and drag from Point 2 to Point 1.

(5) Release your mouse button and "Ctrl" key.

(6) The easter egg will now be displayed.

For more tips, visit our website at www.brainshare.com.ph. We would like to invite our readers to join the Powertips Group. Send your name, address, age, profession and company name to infochat@mozcom.com and receive free tips via e-mail. For questions, comments and suggestions, send e-mail to the same address.

Cisco bags awards

PRODUCTS from Cisco Systems Inc. have captured "Best of Show," "People's Choice" and "Hardware Product of the Year" honors at the recently completed Networld + Interop trade show in Las Vegas.

Cisco products and solutions also landed six highly regarded Well-Connected Awards in competition sponsored by Network Computing magazine, a CMP Media LLC publication.

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iomega

How to deploy UPS systems across the network

THE SIZE of today's rapidly increasing corporate networks has undoubtedly provided organizations with great opportunities and flexibility, so much so that widespread information sharing has become more exciting.

Case in point: The expansion of the uninterruptible power supply or UPS market. Gone are the days when the UPS was considered as a battery in a box, extending lifeblood to computers only during power outages. Today, the UPS has spawned a new breed of devices that are part of a bigger technological solution. The UPS of today not only provides the capability to ride through brownouts and bridge the gap before the generator kicks in but also allows security features and power management across the entire network.

Unlike servers or workstations, UPSes have an inherently long technological life cycle before they cease to serve their purpose. In other words, what you install today will still be in service for years to come. Herein lies a new sense of importance in considering power protection and management solutions to augment the customer's present and future networking setup. Power problems such as brownouts, overvoltages and power outages are potential disasters. They can cause system crashes, hardware damage, data loss or corruption and business downtime at the worst possible time.

The IT manager faces the challenge of protecting vulnerable corporate IT resources.

Three important questions have to be answered: Where in the network would I have to place the UPS? What UPS capacity should I invest on? What kind of UPS, adaptable and compatible with today's dynamic networking environment, would be the best solution?

Surround the network

Any business that relies on its network cannot afford downtime in today's fast-paced Internet mindset. The entire data path must be protected to enable continuous operation and ensure that network resources serve their purpose of being available 24x7.

On the fly, the server should be the primary point in the network that a UPS should be attached to. This makes perfect sense. The server is where the precious data or information is stored. If the server crashes due to a power problem, data access over the network is immobilized. Nowadays, as rack-mountable servers are becoming an attractive choice over the pedestal or tower-type servers in a data center, there are UPS models that will fit like a glove inside a standard rack enclosure. This ensures that the IT administrator saves on valuable room space and maximizes the rack investment.

PCs and workstations should also be protected from power problems. Workstation protection is becoming more important as operating systems become more complicated. Systems that boast of advanced capabilities for sharing information with other workstations and with the server are particularly susceptible to data loss. If the server alone is protected, data on the workstations may not be saved if the power goes bonkers. The UPS should allow the PC or workstation user to save files and shut down the operating system properly during extended power outages.

Another area where power protection is very important yet widely ignored is on the side of internetworking equipment (that is, hubs, routers and switches). Even if you have a UPS at the server and workstation sides, without a UPS on the internetworking equipment, network connection will be lost during a power problem. In effect, network communication will not be possible.

Nowadays, UPSes are also attached to storage systems. These devices allow users to centralize their massive files and databases under a single information management network. Again, where precious data is stored, a UPS should be present to guard against power problems.

The size of the UPS depends on the equipment that you will be protecting. UPS vendors have made it easier to determine the right capacity of UPS as IT equipment get upgraded every so often. UPS sizing guides can be accessed via the Web. This info comes in handy for the IT manager to choose the right UPS model and capacity for the job.

Extended power

If there's a power outage, how much UPS runtime is needed? 10 minutes? 30 minutes? 1 hour? 2 hours? 4 hours? Depending upon the runtime requirement, some UPS models allow you to extend the back-up power to the equipment being protected for as long as 8 hours. These types let you add battery modules, thus expanding the time the UPS can supply battery back-up power to your equipment in case of extended power outages.

Redundancy

If the server setup is redundant—wherein two servers are working simultaneously so that if one server fails, the other server takes over—then the UPS configuration should also be redundant. There are UPS models in the market that are capable of redundancy. If one UPS or module of the UPS fails, the other redundant component will take over. This ensures high availability of the system, providing power protection seven days a week, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

Software

The UPS is classified under the hardware industry. Ironically, what seems to differentiate competitive products is the software. Many UPS vendors offer enticing packages of power management and diagnostics software. Other software packages can perform UPS self-tests and also offer the automatic system shutdown of multiple servers with different operating systems, as well as the ability of the user to run customizable commands or scripts to close application files and programs. Furthermore, as networks continue to proliferate and widen, remote management software capabilities are made available.

Another feature that IT managers should consider is the operating system capability with the customer's networking environment. The UPS software should support a wide variety of operating systems, including major ones such as Windows NT, Windows 2000, Unix and Novell Netware. A solid relationship should be established between the power management supplier and major third-party vendors (the last thing an IT administrator needs is for a UPS software bug to bring down the server). Bear in mind that there is a great difference between having a software that runs on the operating system and having a software that is certified. Certification is your best guarantee that the software had been extensively tried and tested to run with no problems on the operating system.

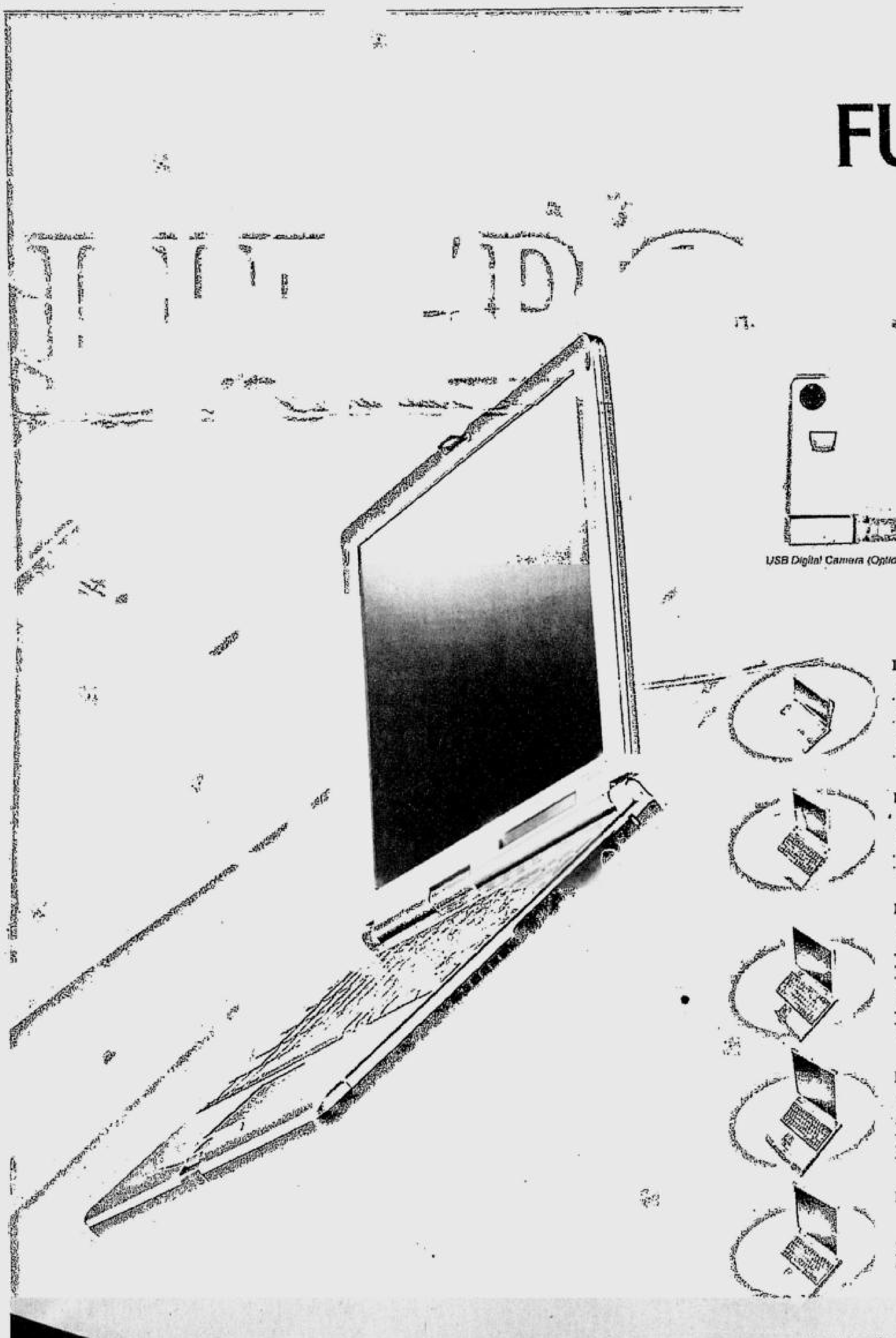
Of equal importance is the amount of control given to the IT administrator. Increased functionality and control integrated into the software allows the IT administrator more options in managing not only the UPS but also the networking environment. Consider this: Can you set the UPS to do a self-test during Friday nights and send you an e-mail telling you how it went?

Web manageability

More often than not, every desktop has a Web browser installed. Almost every IT equipment is Web-centric nowadays that Web man-

HOW/ p.G6

FUJITSU



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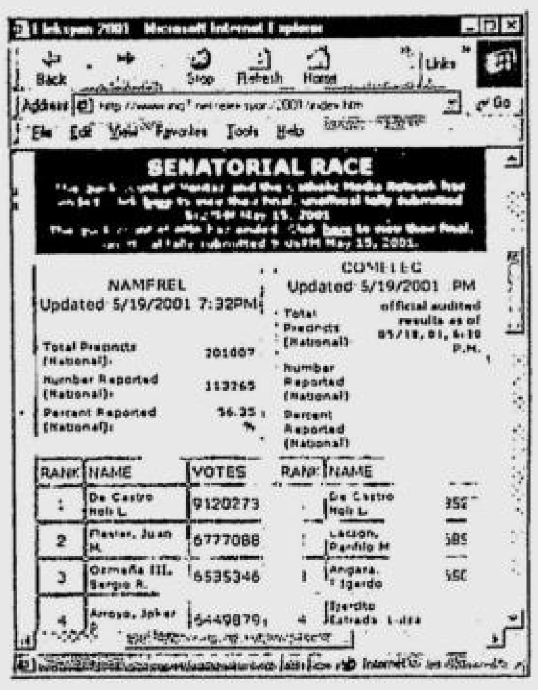


SENATORIAL RACE

NAMFREL
Updated 5/19/2001 7:32PM

Total Precincts (National): 201007
Number Reported (National): 113265
Percent Reported (National): 56.35

COMELEC
Updated 5/19/2001 PM
Total Precincts (National)
Number Reported (National)
Percent Reported (National)

RANK	NAME	VOTES	RANK	NAME	
1	De Castro Noli L.	9120273		De Castro Noli L.	35
2	Flavier, Juan M.	6777088		Lacson, Panfilo M.	58
3	Osmeña III, Sergio R.	6535346		Angara, Edgardo	56
4	Arroyo, Joker	6449879	4	Ejercito Estrada Luisa	

ONLINE SENATE RACE TALLY

Real-time updates of the quick count being conducted by the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections and the official canvass of the Commission on Elections are available at the Eleksyon2001 website at www.inq7.net/eleksyon2001. INQ7.net, the joint online multimedia news delivery organization of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Inc. and GMA Network Inc., is also delivering breaking news and running accounts of the elections. This is the first time that the Comelec and Namfrel tallies are updated real-time on the Web, and INQ7.net is able to do it by getting and updating data right at the source through personnel and equipment situated at the tally and canvass centers.

Aussie firm offers 'info on demand' service in RP

BY ERWIN LEMUEL G. OLIVA

IN THE INFORMATION age, we have an information glut. Managing huge amounts of data accumulated by large organizations means money.

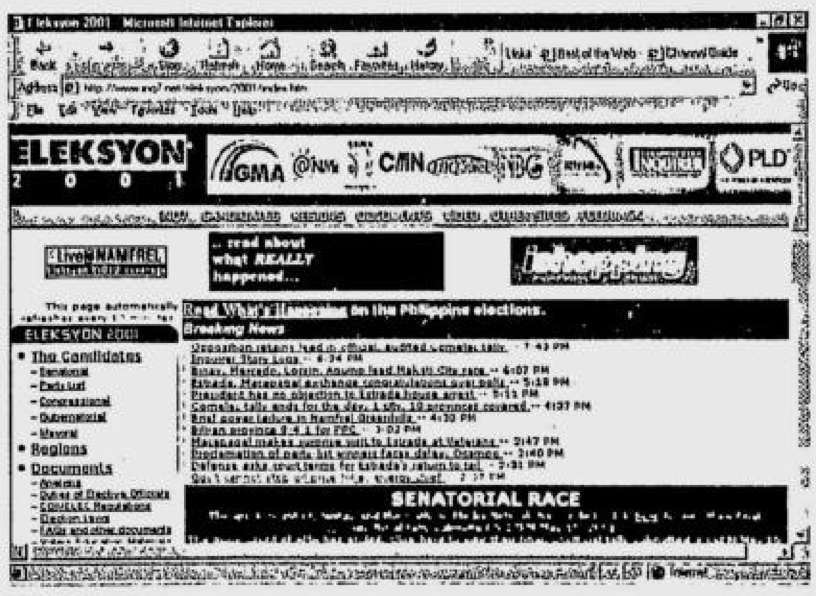
This is the need that 1i00.com aims to address. 1i00.com, a division under Australian firm Interact Pacific Pty Ltd, is engaged in "digital assets management," according to Robert Ward, director of Interact Pacific. The company hosts, manages and distributes information to "those who need it, when they need it" via high-speed pipes from several data warehouses located in Australia and Singapore. While the service is not new, the company said that it plans to launch its service in Europe and the United States. It is also conducting roadshows in Asia.

The company was in the Philippines last week. Ward said that it is looking to close deals with five local organizations. Filipino startup EcforU Philippines Inc. is the company's local agent.

"1i00 can be a data warehouse but we can be an active repository of a company's digital assets," the executive said. 1i00.com, however, is not selling or licensing its proprietary software, which was developed two years ago. It follows an application service provider model, with a slight twist. It classifies information and makes tracking, retrieval and distribution easier because it uses a generic browser.

"Our service also solves so-called information islands since we try to bring information under one roof," Ward added. The company recently was hired by the International Olympics Committee to manage thousands of digital photos taken during the Sydney Olympics, according to Ward. The company was behind the distribution of digital photos to all press agencies worldwide after it was taken.

Other customers include Stanley Tools, Nestle and Nintendo.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Regions
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SENATORIAL RACE

LATEST ELECTION NEWS

Media giants have partnered to produce the Eleksyon2001 website at www.inq7.net/eleksyon2001 to bring the latest news about the elections as well as tallies of the recent May 14 polls. The Eleksyon2001 partnership joins the INQUIRER, GMA-7, PLDT, NBC, AMA, Radio Veritas and the Catholic Media Network, RGMA, GMA New Media and INQ7.net to bring the latest news about the recent elections.

Palace orders computer center director Señeres to vacate post

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

IN THE END, it had to take a direct order from Malacañang to force incumbent Ramon "Ike" Señeres to vacate his post as chief of the National Computer Center (NCC).

A letter from the Office of the President was sent to Señeres last week, telling him that Delfin "Jay" Sabido IX has been appointed as the new head, effectively replacing him, according to Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro in an interview.

Sabido was appointed as NCC chief on March 2. He is currently the director of the Advanced Science and Technology Institute, a research and development arm under the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Sabido took his oath Monday morning last week at the premises of the Advanced Science and Technology Institute at the University of the Philippines in Diliman. Alabastro and Assistant Secretary Joy Alvarado witnessed his formal acceptance of the post.

The new chief's acceptance of the position has been delayed by legal questions raised by Señeres earlier before the Civil Service Commission.

Recently, he argued that he cannot leave his post due to Commission on Elections rules banning transfer of government employees from one agency to another during the election period beginning Jan. 2 to June 30. He said this amid a Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) directive, asking him to go back to his former position at the DFA. Señeres used to head the management information systems division of the DFA until former President Joseph Estrada appointed him as executive director of the NCC in 1998. Based on the agreement between the DFA and the NCC, his secondment would last from September 1998 until June 2001.

Alabastro told the INQUIRER that she and Señeres had a brief talk after Sabido's oath-taking on Monday.

"We had a civil discussion," Alabastro said when asked to describe how Señeres reacted to the news of his replacement. The conversation lasted 10 minutes, she added.

Alabastro said that Señeres appeared to have expected the news. "He projected an amiable expression."

Asked why Sabido's official takeover was deferred, Alabastro said the DOST had sought legal opinion on various questions raised by Señeres.

3Com pushes Gigabit Ethernet over LANs

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

COMPANIES today can enjoy one billion bits of bandwidth in their local area network using existing copper cables.

Ethernet technology pioneer 3Com has recently introduced its version of Gigabit Ethernet technology that can readily run on existing copper-based local area networks.

"Gigabit Ethernet over copper" is the networking company's latest bid in the networking market which is experiencing a slowdown with the recent job cuts in Cisco and other networking firms based in the United States.

3Com said that its latest Gigabit Ethernet products do not force companies to abandon existing network infrastructure.

Companies need not rewire their offices and install optical fibers to have Gigabit Ethernet installed over their local area networks, according to 3Com.

With their latest switching technology, companies can readily bring faster data rates to local area networks, and to do that is as simple as "cooking food in a microwave oven," according to 3Com Philippines country manager Kenneth Palacios.

"We've taken out the complexity from installing Gigabit Ethernet," Palacios added, as he tried to prove his point when he tried cooking pasta in a microwave oven.

With the idea of "keeping it simple," 3Com has introduced various networking products designed for "quick" and "easy installation."

The 3Com SuperStack3 4900 is a stackable switch that can work on Ethernet, Fast Ethernet, and Gigabit Ethernet environments.The company also released the latest Network Interface Cards (NICs) designed for Gigabit Ethernet.

3Com currently claims leadership in the 1000Base-T (Gigabit Ethernet) switching arena.

Microsoft opens cable TV show; eyes delivery of apps via cable

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

MICROSOFT Philippines has unveiled the first cable TV program created to extend its technical sessions to Filipino audiences.

The software company announced the partnership with local cable TV operator Destiny Inc. on this "non-income generating" venture.

While most of the current programming content are produced in Redmond, Washington, the Microsoft channel will soon come up with local content targeted at local IT professionals, students and corporations, according to Microsoft Philippines managing director Richard Francis.

Destiny has been running test broadcasts of the so-called Microsoft Channel since February.

"Microsoft Channel's objective is to increase accessibility of our TechNet and MSDN content. We have been conducting free seminars with a capacity of over 12,000 seats a year and still regret having to turn away professionals who want to attend them because the sessions are often packed," remarked Mark Yambot, marketing director of Microsoft Philippines.

Yambot said that Microsoft is open to partnering with other cable TV operators.

Destiny, however, sees the partnership as only the first step to providing other services using the cable firm's broadband infrastructure.

"We could provide the platform for support for their services and software using broadband technology," said David Lim, president of Destiny Inc.

The Microsoft and Destiny partnership is expected to go beyond a dedicated cable TV channel on Microsoft's latest software and services. Destiny will likely allow the delivery of Microsoft's software and services through its high-speed broadband network.

Destiny now has the capacity to service half a million subscribers. Currently, it has 50,000 subscribers.

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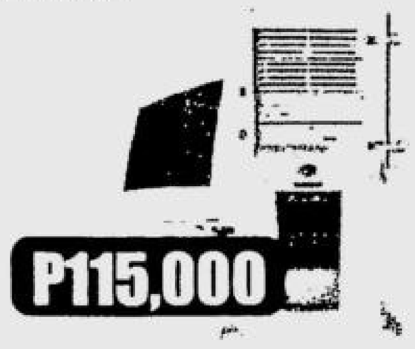

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- Group Wise 5.5
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- Novell Software Distributor
- Netware Management Agent
- Border Manager Enterprise Edition 3.5
- Oracle 8i
- Netscape Enterprise Server for Netware
- Tobit Fax Ware 6
- Novell Internet Connection Expert
- Network Associates Netshield and VirusScan
- Regular FatPipe
- Pervasive.SQL 2000

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- 128 Mb 133 Mhz ECC SDRAM
- 9.1 GB Hard Disk Drive
- 32x CD-ROM
- Integrated Fast Ethernet NIC PCI-10/100 WOL
- Optional: Rack conversion & hot plug kit available
- Insight Manager
- Smart Start
- 3/3/3 Warranty

S510 15" Monitor

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- Intel i810e chipset
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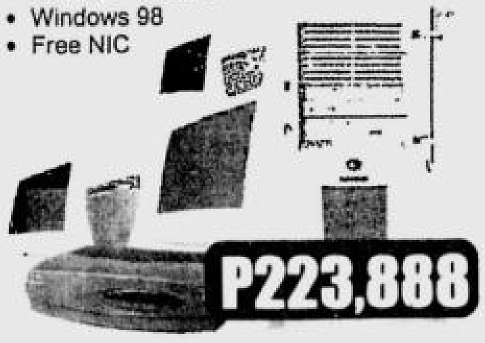
- 64MB SDRAM exp. to 512 MB
- S510 15" monitor
- Windows 98
- Free NIC



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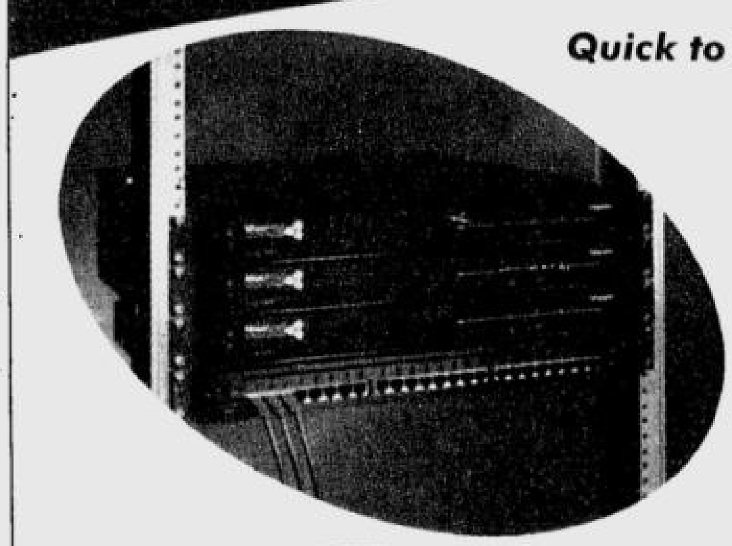

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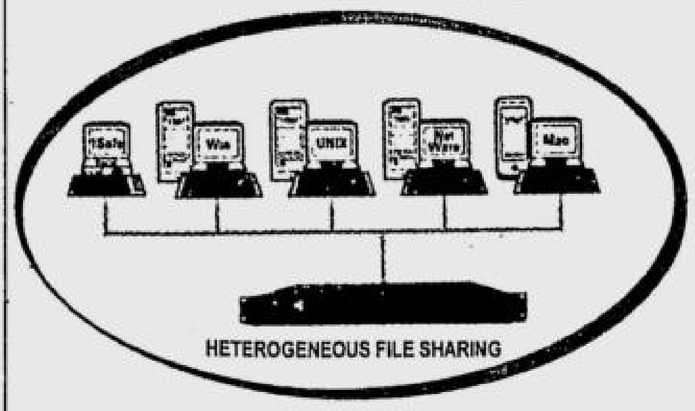

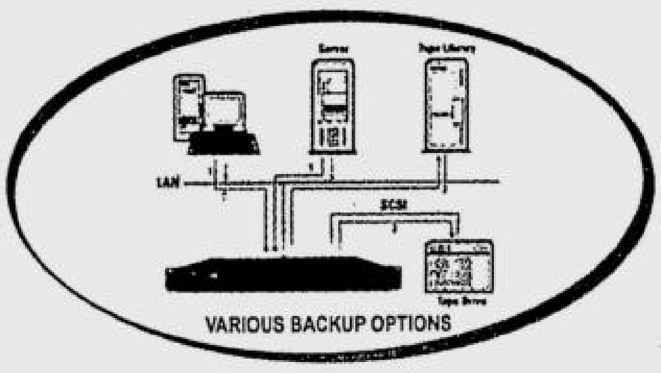

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Palm, Handspring sink to all-time lows

NEW YORK—Shares of handheld computer makers Palm Inc. and Handspring Inc. tumbled to all-time lows on Friday, one day after Palm slashed its fourth-quarter revenue and loss estimate due to poor sales of its devices.

Shares of Palm, the No. 1 maker of personal digital assistants, or PDAs, closed down $2 to $5.05, off about 29 percent after hitting a low of $4.71 on volume of 123.7 million, making it the most active issue on Nasdaq. The stock's previous lifetime low was $5.75.

Shares of Handspring, the No. 2 PDA maker, closed down $1.69, or 16.28 percent, to $8.69, after earlier hitting a lifetime low of $8.50, off about 17 percent. Volume was about 5.1 million.

Late on Thursday, Palm, hurt by delays in the debut of its newer models, and a glut of older, cheaper devices, cut revenue forecasts for its fourth quarter, which ends in May, to between $140 million and $160 million. That is about half of its most recent estimate of $300 million to $315 million, and an even smaller fraction of analysts' forecast in March of up to $600 million.

The company also roughly doubled its pro forma operating loss forecast to between $170 million and $190 million, from $80 million to $85 million previously.

In addition, Palm terminated its proposed acquisition of software company Extended Systems, a key deal that Palm had hoped would help it move beyond singular sales to individuals and toward sales to companies in bulk.

A chorus of Wall Street analysts on Friday responded to the news by cutting their outlooks. JP Morgan reduced its rating to market perform from long-term buy, while Bear Stearns cut its rating to neutral from buy.

"Management's visibility and execution has to be questioned as the challenges are getting more complex and the competition, from Microsoft, more challenging," said Bear Stearns analyst Andrew Neff, referring to citing Microsoft Corp. whose operating system software powers rival handheld computers.

These rivals to Palm and Handspring are called Pocket PCs, powered by Microsoft's own Pocket PC operating system. These devices, roughly the same form factor as Palms but are more expensive, are starting to cut into the market of Palm-based PDAs.

"Management said it has a plan to reach profitability in fiscal year 2002, but we don't show that in our model—we're not sure how to get there," Neff added.

JP Morgan analyst Paul Coster said the company has also made itself vulnerable to the advance of another competitor, Canada's Research in Motion Ltd., whose Blackberry is popular with corporation purchasing managers.

"We think Palm has taken a step backward and opened up a window of opportunity for its competitors, and particularly Research in Motion, maker of the popular BlackBerry pager that is already in the lead when it comes to selling products to large corporations," he said

Reuters

How to deploy UPS systems . . .

(From page G4)

ageability is now more of an essential requirement.

Some UPSes can be Web-enabled by plugging in Web cards or adapters into it. You can manage the UPS over the network via a Web browser, perform UPS diagnostics, retrieve information on power events, view the UPS status via a Web browser interface and perform remote shutdown and reboot of server and network equipment.

In the short-term, UPSes work fine out of the box. For long-term solutions, you need to determine what separates the battery-in-the-box from just a mere power protection to a true power management solution. To do that, it is necessary to view the entire network—from the data center, server and storage device to the hub, router and switch, down to the desktop and workstation.

Understanding and acting on these issues will allow you to capitalize on the UPS industry's development, as seen from an IT user's perspective of protecting data and investment.

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